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WEEKEND, December 7-9, 2012



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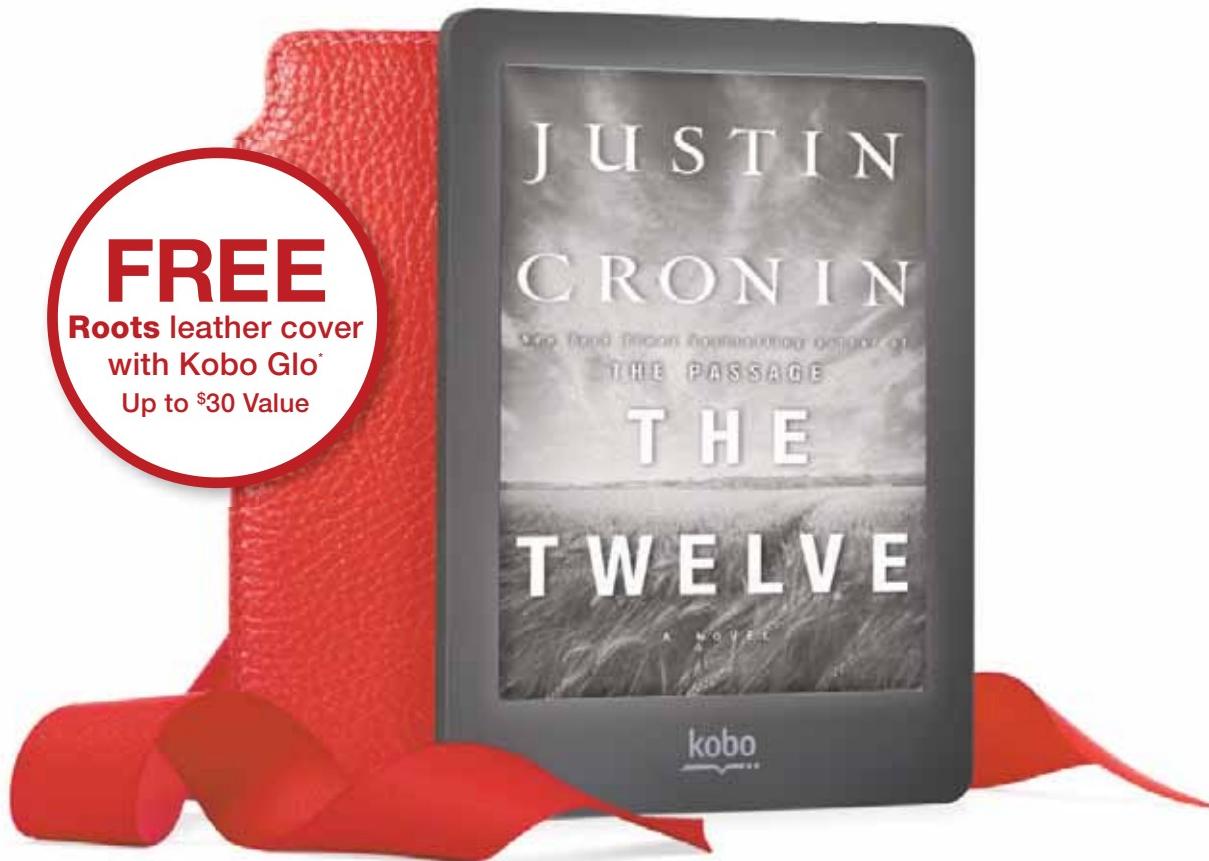
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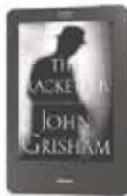
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SEEING THINGS

A LOOK AT THE WORLD OF SOOTHSAYERS AND
HOW SOME OF THEM AREN'T WHAT THEY CLAIM



PAGES 20-21



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REMEMBERING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

University of Calgary Students' Union representative Kenya-Jade Pinto, left, and professor Jennifer Koshan light a candle Thursday in honour of 14 women murdered at Montreal's L'Ecole Polytechnique on Dec. 6, 1989. An event was held at the university to help inspire others as part of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. JEREMY NOLAS/METRO

Plan calls for an 'evolution' of city's transit

Looking ahead. Group aims to prioritize improvements in service and infrastructure

High-speed buses moving people in a grid network outside of downtown forms the backbone of the next major expansion of Calgary Transit.

That's according to Chris Jordan, project manager of RouteAhead, a group tasked with developing a 30-year vision for transit growth in the city and set to deliver its final draft plan to aldermen on Friday.

The detailed document, comprising hundreds of pages, will then be addressed Wednesday by the city's transportation and transit committee.

After the west LRT opens on Monday, Jordan said the next steps in transit growth should reflect an "evolution of service" that expands beyond downtown commuting and creates "more of a grid network connecting some of the big trip generators outside the downtown — like the universities, hospitals and so on."

To accomplish that, Jordan said the plan suggests lengthening bus-only lanes, adding more transit priority signals, and allowing off-board fare payment to cut down on queues and enable people to board buses at multiple doors, similar to C-Train boarding.

"Based on the funding available and the need to speed up existing bus service, those are the best investments we can make in the short-

Input

- Share your thoughts on RouteAhead's final draft plan at the committee meeting on Dec. 12, at 9:30 a.m. in Old City Hall

term," Jordan said.

Ald. Richard Pootmans, a RouteAhead steering committee member, said the time has come to expand transit thinking beyond moving people to and from downtown.

"One of the exciting parts about RouteAhead is the notion that we're now going to start to connect the major employers beyond the hub-and-spoke system that we have now," he said. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Pilot's family in mourning

Okotoks' Glen Freeland, who died in a helicopter crash, leaves behind a wife and two kids PAGE 3

It's a total Rom Com bomb

Not even Gerard Butler's rakish smile is enough to save his maudlin new movie, the Reel Guys say PAGE 29

NHL deal still undone

Talks broke off again on Thursday as the league rejected the players' latest offer PAGE 56



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Three accused in murder appear in court



Ryan Lane, 24, was first reported missing in February. Police discovered his remains in June near Beiseker. METRO FILE

All three people accused of first-degree murder in the death of Ryan Lane made their first court appearances on Thursday morning, each represented by a different high-profile lawyer.

Twenty-six-year-old Sheena Cuthill, wearing maroon prison garb and ankle shackles, sat in a Calgary courtroom while her husband Tim Rempel, 27, and his brother Will Rempel, 38, appeared before the judge via closed-circuit television from the Calgary Remand Centre.

Lawyers for all three accused said they had not yet

received disclosure from the Crown and asked that the case return later in the month.

Allan Fay, lawyer for Tim Rempel, said he expects it will take some time to go through the entire package of investigative material and documents.

"Lord only knows how long it will take until we get it all," he said.

Lane and Cuthill had a young daughter and police allege a custody dispute may have led to his death.

The case will return to court on Dec. 21.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Countering crime

Crime-prevention centre coming to downtown

Details are being finalized for a new crime-prevention hub in Calgary's downtown that should open in mid-2013, says the police chief.

In a year-end interview with Metro, Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson touted what he described as an "opportunity centre" during a discussion of initiatives the Calgary Police Service is working together with community partners on.

The development would utilize a pre-crime charge diversion strategy that provides support to people verging on high-risk lifestyles, namely the underprivileged.

"We have committed to a philosophy of going hard at the bad guys that have caused so much grief, but also targeting root cause," Hanson said. "Most people like it when we arrest the bad guy, but they would rather the offence never was committed in the first place."

The centre will be housed in a building already owned by a social agency, but Hanson said final location details are still being hashed out.

The Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre, Mustard Seed, Crown prosecutors office and Alberta Health Services were among key partners listed by Hanson.

"This is something we support in principle," said Debbie Newman, executive director for the drop-in centre, in a statement.

"The details are still being ironed out and we're continuing talks."

Hanson said he has pushed for a strategy like this one that will be offered at the centre for years.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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go to metronews.ca



Family mourns loss of helicopter pilot

Grieving family.

Okotoks man leaves behind a wife and two young children after crash still under investigation by RCMP

RYAN
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Remembered fondly by family for his quick wit and passion for life, a 38-year-old Calgary-area man is dead after his helicopter crashed near Slave Lake on Wednesday.

Okotoks pilot Glen Freeland left Peace River in his R-44L helicopter bound for the Calgary area. He was the only occupant of the helicopter when it crashed 12 kilometres southwest of Slave Lake, according to the RCMP.

"The family and friends of Glen Freeland are grieving his loss," his wife Kirs-

Funeral service

Glen Freeland's funeral service is planned for Peace River on Dec. 15.

ten Freeland wrote in a prepared statement. The couple has two children together — Morgan, 12, and Simon, seven months.

The RCMP responded to an emergency beacon activated by Freeland's helicopter at about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Personnel from two military bases and two Slave Lake helicopter companies also responded to the scene of the crash.

"The family is grateful to the Slave Lake RCMP, the local helicopter companies, the entire rescue staff and the friends in Canyon Creek for their efforts," the statement read.

An investigation into the cause of the crash is ongoing.



Crews work at the scene of a helicopter crash that killed a 38-year-old Okotoks man. COURTESY OF RCMP

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Western Coffee Shop: A Mission mainstay

Old school. Café still attracts a loyal clientele two decades later

LISA WILTON

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When Shawn Petsche moved to Calgary seven years ago, one of his first stops was a nondescript greasy-spoon café on the corner of 4 St. and 21 Ave. S.W.

The Western Coffee Shop, he was told by friends living in the Mission District, was a community staple and the friendliest place in the neighbourhood.

"It was my introduction to Calgary," recalls the Montreal native, who now frequents Western about three times a week.

Petsche says he got hooked on the café when he tried its black bean chicken and peppers on rice — a dish his mother would make once a week.

"I kind of joked about having a surrogate mom," he says, speaking of co-owner May Lui.

"But as I was finishing my meal she said, 'You're not done until you eat your vegetables.' I was like, 'Oh, I actually do have a surrogate mom now!'"

To show his gratitude, Petsche has set up a Facebook event page to encourage people to come to the Western on Saturday to celebrate two decades of Lui and her cousin William Wu running the café.

"They've been on that corner, quietly nourishing the

Regulars

"I'm happy with the customers here ... They're like old friends."

May Lui, co-owner of Western Coffee Shop

neighbourhood for 20 years and I just thought they deserved some recognition," says Petsche.

Lui arrived from Hong Kong in 1989 and three years later she and two friends bought the Western Donut Shop. After a year, however, her business partners returned to Hong Kong and Lui asked Wu to help her come up with a new menu sans doughnuts.

"Nobody liked the doughnuts," she says with a laugh. "So we changed the kitchen. Fifteen years ago we were the only ones who had breakfast on this street. We were the first ones."

Lui admits business has slowed a bit over the past few years, partly due to the influx of trendier breakfast joints around the city and other nearby pubs and restaurants offering brunch menus on the weekends.

But she says she is happy enough serving her dedicated regular customers, which include lawyers, architects, students and blue-collar workers.

"I know I can't make any money," she says.

"But I'm happy with the customers here. They come all the time. They're like old friends. I still like coming into work."



Amy Lau, May Lui and William Wu stand behind the counter of the Mission favourite, Western Coffee Shop. An event on Saturday will celebrate 20 years of the café being open. LISA WILTON/METRO

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'Dumb' criminals break into three Calgary stores

'There's no thought process...' Stolen vehicles used to enter retail stores

Aaron Curtis was at work at 3:30 a.m. Thursday because of what he calls "dumb criminals."

Curtis — the general manager of Visions Electronics in southwest Calgary — left home to respond to his store's alarm.

However, when he arrived, Curtis realized someone actually drove through the wall of a nearby fitness centre, 300 feet away from the Visions warehouse.

"It's the epitome of the dumb criminal. I cannot believe it. There's no thought process at all in this scenario," Curtis said.

According to police, the attempted theft at Visions was one of three break-ins Calgary police responded to early Thursday morning.

The culprits also broke into

Brown's Grocery and the Sony Store.

In all three cases, a stolen vehicle was used to break through the wall of the stores, according to the Calgary police.

"We've seen this before. It's a technique that's been used many times for similar incidences," Acting Staff Sgt. Shawn Foisie said.

Police have laid charges against one man in connection with the crimes and are looking for the driver of a stolen white Range Rover SUV, Alberta license plate ZMF 125.

RYAN KESSLER/FOR METRO

Spree

- **First scene.** The first incident at Brown's Grocery took place at 12:50 a.m.
- **First arrest.** Police interrupted the third break-in just after 2 a.m. and arrested the suspect shortly after.

Tips for those West LRT first-timers



IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

Not everyone needs an update

(Earphones allow) you to drown out those loud talkers who share every detail of their personal lives, so that the train becomes their rolling Facebook status.

A few years ago, I wrote a column admitting that, for several reasons, I rarely paid for transit. In the years since, I've definitely come around to the idea, and now I always pay.

Why the change of heart? Mostly stress.

While it's still easy to ride for free, the guilt will eat away at you. Trust me, it's much more of an enjoyable ride when you just pay.

That never happens in Calgary.

Just look at whatever is happening on Memorial and 10th St. NW.

For the people who might be taking the train for the first time, I thought I would offer up some helpful tips.

Stopping right inside the

doors is proof positive that you're a CTrain rookie. And when it's time to get off, anticipate your stop. Trying to move on the crowded train can be difficult and you'll have a far better chance of surviving the gauntlet if you're actually ready to get off when it's your stop.

As with public transit in any city, sometimes there are weird people on the train. Because you're Canadian, you're going to feel like you have to talk to them.

You don't.

In my experience, they usually just want money or to talk about why they're running for re-election in next year's municipal election.

Which brings me to my

next point: Invest in a good pair of earphones. They will come in handy in more ways than one. The train offers a great opportunity to catch up on your favourite podcast, and good earphones allow you to drown out those loud talkers who share every detail of their personal lives, so that the train becomes their rolling Facebook status. Without earphones, you'll be subjected to strangers' thoughts on everything from their favourite part of 50 Shades of Grey to defending their need to get another cat.

Mind you, if you're like me, sometimes the conversation is too good to pass up and the earphones will make it look like you're not listening, when in reality, you're tweeting every juicy detail.

Everyone else does that right?

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Orange wedge

Combine ingredients in an ice filled glass.
Garnish with orange wedge.

Tribute. Sister asks Calgarians to forgo stocking stuffers in brother's memory

Coming across her late brother's Christmas stocking, Bal Sull said she and her family considered putting it back in the box because it was too painful. But Sull said that's not what her brother would have wanted.

Ranjit Sidhu was killed in July after falling while rock-climbing near Canmore. Though he was able-bodied, Sidhu had been an avid wheelchair basketball player for more than a decade.

"He just loved it," Sull said. "He had that wheelchair and he hauled it around with him everywhere."

Sull said seeing his stocking inspired her to raise money for

Sidhu's longtime wheelchair basketball team, the Calgary Grizzlies.

Instead of spending money on stocking stuffers, Sull is encouraging Calgarians to donate to the Grizzlies. "This is \$10-to-\$15 items that we do nothing with, so why not put that money towards an amazing cause," she said. "This would have made him so happy. He's not here to do this, so we're going to do it for him."

To learn more about the project and to donate to the Grizzlies, go to the Facebook page 1st Annual Stocking Cause in Memory of Ranjit Sidhu, or go to calgarygrizzlies.ca.

KATIE TURNER/METRO



Bal Sull, sister of Ranjit Sidhu, pictured, is hoping to raise funds for her late brother's wheelchair basketball team, the Calgary Grizzlies. FACEBOOK PHOTO

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Deceased parrot. Exotic bird dies during surgery – SPCA complaint launched

The death of a parrot in Calgary could have been avoided had the owners sought proper medical care, veterinarians say.

Birdline Parrot Rescue says a woman in Lethbridge found an Indian ringnecked parakeet, now dubbed Meia, in a cardboard box on her doorstep. Meia's left leg was out of place, oozing blood and covered in lesions. The woman called Birdline Canada, which

came to pick up the bird. At Calgary's Avian and Exotic Pet Clinic, vets determined her left ankle had been broken weeks ago, had fused in place and could not be repaired. Amputation was to take place on Thursday, but Meia died during the surgery.

Information on Meia's case is being sought and a complaint has been lodged with the Alberta SPCA. METRO

New bylaw. Alberta town to fine, and jail bullies

Bullies in a southeast Alberta town had better play nice or wind up with steep fines to pay — or even jail time.

A bylaw passed by Hanna town council last month allows RCMP to issue an initial fine of \$250 to verbal abusers and subsequent fines of up to \$1,000 for further offences. In the most extreme cases, a bully could face six months in jail or hours of community service.

"The RCMP approached us — they didn't have a mechanism

for dealing with bullying short of when it becomes a Criminal Code offence," said Mark Nikota, mayor of the town of about 2,700.

A few other Alberta municipalities have passed their own versions of a bully bylaw, including Grande Prairie, which also has the power to levy \$250 fines.

The Hanna bylaw also includes a provision allowing RCMP to issue a \$100 fine to bystanders. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

'Students deserve to know where their funds are going'

Fee feud. Responding to criticism, U of C officials say extensive consultation done before approval of tuition and fee hikes



JEREMY NOLAIS

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University of Calgary students will pay more for tuition next year, but the overall cost to attend classes still falls in the mid-range of Canada's 15 leading research institutions, officials said on Thursday.

In a vote on Thursday, the school's board of governors approved a tuition hike of 2.15 per cent — the maximum allowed under the provincial tuition cap — for the 2013-14 school year, raising the annual cost for a full-time student to roughly \$5,450.

Hardave Birk, president of the students' union, voted against the increase, standing firm on claims that the university is circumventing the tuition cap by also boosting the student-services fee by \$150.

But Dru Marshall, university provost and vice-president academic, said administration



Students come and go from the U of C's MacEwan Student Centre on Thursday. The board of governors has approved increases in tuition and student-services fees. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

High cost of learning

- The University of Calgary says the student-services fee provides a portion of the funding for programs in student leadership as well as resource centres for international, disabled and native students,
- Along with the tuition and student-services fee hikes, U of C students will also pay up to five per cent more for on-campus living.

funded by the services fee, including enhanced enrolment assistance and student-event security.

"My question is, when we look at these types of insur-

ance programs and health and safety, shouldn't the university be providing a safe and healthy environment for students regardless of whether this fee existed or not?" he said.

ance programs and health and safety, shouldn't the university be providing a safe and healthy environment for students regardless of whether this fee existed or not?" he said.

Fire destroys duplex in northeast

Gary Aldridge didn't notice the flaming duplex across the street from his Calgary home until someone started banging on his door.

The Calgary Fire Department responded to a three-alarm fire in the 100 block of 6A Street N.E. just after 9 p.m. on Wednesday.

"It was very scary because the flames were going up pretty high and there was a massive fire coming out the top of the building," Aldridge said.

The Bridgeland duplex was under construction and near-

ing completion. No one was injured in the fire, officials said.

Investigators were on scene on Thursday morning to determine the cause of the blaze.

Marshall Livicci has lived in Bridgeland off and on for nearly 40 years. He believes the fire is a sign that the community is headed in the wrong direction, adding that there have been at least two other nearby blazes in the past few years.

"There's so many fires close together here," Livicci said. "I don't remember a single fire when I was growing up as a kid." RYAN KESSLER/FOR METRO

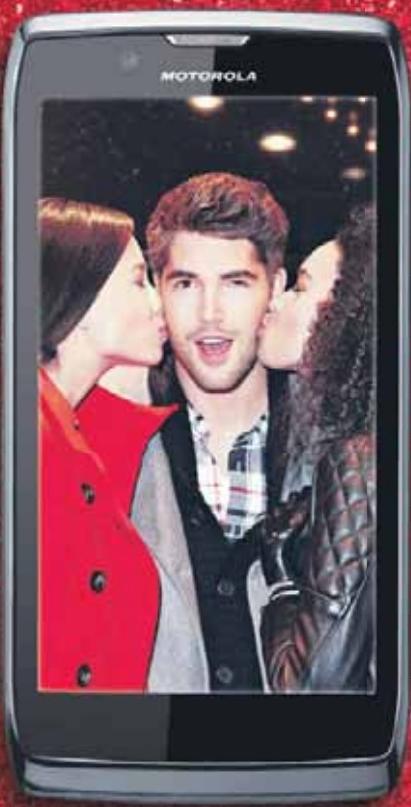


Gary Aldridge surveys the fire damage at the duplex across the street from his house in northeast Calgary. RYAN KESSLER/FOR METRO

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A twist to the traditional Christmas feast

Metro's 12 Days of Christmas.

On Day 2, local chefs give their tips on making an unforgettable holiday dinner

LISA WILTON
calgary@metronews.ca

Christmas dinner needn't consist of dry turkey and Jell-O salad again this year.

Paul Peddle, executive chef of The Fairmont Palliser Hotel, says people should have fun with their holiday dishes instead of sticking to the tried-and-true.

"Personally, I love options," says Peddle. "I love ... people coming to my home for Christmas because I'll have some non-traditional items as well. It's a way to try

new things without forcing it on people."

Peddle says he's noticed a trend toward healthier eating during the past few years.

"People aren't gorging as much," he says. "They're looking for healthier alternatives, while still retaining great taste."

Peddle suggests trying a pork tenderloin rather than a fatty, heavy ham that leaves you groaning on the floor after one too many servings.

"People are so much more educated and conscientious of what to eat now," he says. "And pork tenderloin is a healthy, lean and underappreciated cut of meat."

Peddle's recipe includes apples and leek for a more Christmas-y feel. "You can incorporate a festive aspect and still be a little different," he said.

Peddle has another tip for the family chef: keep it simple. This means making



Need something new on the palate this Christmas? Turkey isn't the only thing to cook this holiday season. METRO FILE

dishes that have easy-to-find and fresh ingredients.

"It can be cost-effective and still fall in with the holiday day theme."

S.B. Ramjee, a pastry chef at Thomsions Restaurant at the Hyatt Regency, says people shouldn't concern themselves with calories if they want to enjoy a few holiday treats.

Ramjee says German stollen — a type of fruit cake with marzipan and icing sugar — and rich Christmas pudding are among the most popular Christmas desserts.

His own tasty ice cream

wafer dessert is filled with fruits and berries and dollops of icing and candies.

"If you want to cut down on the fat, you can try something like a gingerbread cookie," he says.

On the web

Find Christmas recipes by chefs Paul Peddle and S.B. Ramjee, as well as a salad recipe from Dominique Mousset of L'Epicerie and Cassis, at metronews.ca



Nutrition

How to spend your calorie salary wisely

Calgary nutritionist Kristyn Hall says you can have your Christmas cake and eat it too, as long as it's in moderation.

Hall, director of Health Castle Calgary, says one of her top tips for staying trim over the holidays is eat it because you love it, not just because it's there.

"When it comes to all those kinds of temptations, I always like to say pick one or two that you really want to enjoy, then take the time to really enjoy them," she says. "Be mindful of

the things you put on your plate. For example, when I go to the buffet table, I'm typically going to skip the dinner bun because it's probably not that interesting and there's probably other ways I want to spend my calorie salary."

Along with an abundance of foods, Hall cautions against indulging in too many high-calorie beverages — both alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

"Think before you drink," she said. "Juice contributes to your hydration but it also contributes to your calorie intake, so you want to be careful and aware of how much you're consuming."

KATIE TURNER/METRO

Trim tummy tips

Advice from Calgary nutritionist Kristyn Hall:

- Hit the gym. Hall recommends keeping up an exercise regime even at this busy time of year.
- Plate percentage. Making sure half your plate is filled with veggies at Christmas dinner is a good way to keep your balanced diet on track during the holidays.
- Stay hydrated. Add frozen cranberries to water, or some mint, cucumber and lime to carbonated water for a more festive way to stay hydrated.

KATIE TURNER/METRO

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5 movies that'll make you go ho! ho! ho!

It's that time of year, which means movie nights have a theme: Christmas. Here are a few that are sure to tickle your funny bone.

COMPILED BY HEATHER MCINTYRE AND LISA WILTON/METRO IN EDMONTON

edmonton@metronews.ca

1



A Christmas Story (1983)

This amusing look at childhood is not overly sentimental the way some Christmas movies can be. Set in the 1940s, it revolves around nine-year-old Ralphie (Peter Billingsley), who wants nothing more than a Red Ryder BB Gun in his stocking. He lets everyone from his parents and teachers to the shopping mall Santa know of his Christmas wish. And each time he gets the same reply, "You'll shoot your eye out, kid."

2



Elf (2003)

From eating spaghetti, Pop-Tarts and syrup for breakfast to pressing every button in the elevator because it looks like a Christmas tree, Elf has a laugh for everyone. The story of an orphan named Buddy who stowed away in Santa's toy sack, then grew up at the North Pole, stars Will Ferrell, who travels to New York City as an adult in search of his family. There, he makes friends and foes as he tries to fit in. In the end, of course, Buddy helps save Christmas.

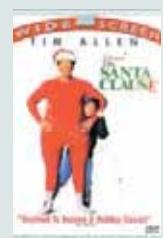
3



National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)

Everyone loves to laugh at the Griswolds. In this Chevy Chase classic, Clark Griswold plans a special family Christmas, which takes months of planning. But a series of obnoxious family guests wreak havoc on the plans. Memorable moments include a tree that won't fit in the living room, Clark attempting to turn on 25,000 lights he strung up on the house and a very slick sledding adventure.

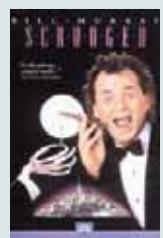
4



The Santa Clause (1994)

After Tim Allen's character, Scott Calvin, calls out to a man on the roof — and the man falls to his demise — he winds up putting on Santa's suit and getting in the sleigh. From there, he is transported to the North Pole and turned into Santa Claus — owing to a clause. Meanwhile, his ex-wife and her new husband are busy teaching his son that Santa isn't real. Through a series of comedic events, Scott proves to his son that he is — beard, belly and all.

5



Scrooged (1988)

Bill Murray plays an egotistical, selfish and hilariously cynical TV executive in this 1988 comic adaptation of Charles Dickens' holiday classic, A Christmas Carol. His inimitable deadpan delivery elicits more than a few chuckles even when his character is at his most callous. The film also features standout performances by Carol Kane as the Ghost of Christmas Present, and New York Dolls frontman David Johansen as the Ghost of Christmas Past.



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Russia. Journalist dies in volatile North Caucasus

A journalist with state-controlled television has been killed in Russia's North Caucasus, a region plagued by violence stemming from an Islamist insurgency.

Kazbek Gekkiyev, an anchor with the state-run VGTRK media holding, was gunned down late Wednesday in Nalchik, the capital of the Kabardino-Balkariya province, police said. Police spokesman Vladislav Romanov said Thursday that the killing could be related to Gekkiyev's job.

But VGTRK said his job did not include covering underground Islamic militancy and he only read out news reports. Other VGTRK anchors have previously received death threats from militants who did not like the way they covered reports on killings of



Russian journalist Kazbek Gekkiyev
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamists in the Caucasus.

In a web-posted video issued in February, an Islamist leader surrounded by masked men with weapons warned that he will "cut the smiles out of journalists' mouths" for their allegedly biased reporting. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Britain

Woman jailed for having copies of al-Qaida magazine

The sister of two men convicted of plotting to blow up the London Stock Exchange has been jailed for 12 months for possessing copies of the al-Qaida magazine

Inspire. Ruksana Begum was arrested in July and pleaded guilty last month to possessing material useful to terrorists.

Prosecutors say two digital editions of Inspire were found in Begum's home. They included instructions on how to use a handgun, how to construct a bomb, detonator and how to ignite forest fires. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Germany. Governors plan far-right party ban

Germany's state governors have backed plans to seek a ban on the country's only significant far-right party — pushing the case a step closer to Germany's highest court.

All 16 state governors agreed Thursday to apply to the Federal Constitutional Court for a ban on the National Democratic Party, which they

say promotes a racist, anti-constitutional agenda. Their interior ministers recommended the move Wednesday.

A previous ban attempt failed embarrassingly a decade ago when it emerged paid government informants were partially responsible for evidence against the party.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nobel Prize winner defends Chinese regime, censorship

Still a party man.

Chinese writer distances himself from criticism of his government by peers

This year's Nobel Prize in literature winner, Mo Yan, who has been criticized for his membership in China's Communist Party and reluctance to speak out against the country's government, defended censorship Thursday as something as necessary as airport security checks.

Mo has been criticized by human-rights activists for not being a more outspoken defender of freedom of speech and for supporting the Communist Party-backed writers' association, of which he is vice-president.

His comments Thursday, made during a news conference in Stockholm, appear unlikely to soften his critics' views toward him.

Awarding him the literature prize has also brought criticism from previous win-

ners. Herta Mueller, the 2009 literature laureate, called the jury's choice of Mo a "catastrophe" in an interview with the Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter last month. She also accused Mo of protecting the Asian country's censorship laws.

China's rulers forbid opposition parties and maintain strict control over all media.

Mo said he doesn't feel that censorship should stand in the way of truth but that any defamation, or rumours, "should be censored."

"But I also hope that censorship, per se, should have the highest principle," he said in comments translated by an interpreter from Chinese into English.

Mo is spending several days in Stockholm before receiving his prestigious prize in an awards ceremony next Monday. He won the Nobel for his sprawling tales of life in rural China.

In its citation, the Nobel literature jury said Mo "with hallucinatory realism merges folk tales, history and the contemporary."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



2012 Nobel Literature Prize winner Mo Yan of China signs his chair at the Nobel Museum in Stockholm on Thursday. FREDRIK SANDBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China's reception of two Nobel laureates worlds apart

Mo mum on calls to free Liu

Mo Yan dodged questions about Liu Xiaobo, the jailed Peace Prize winner. Liu was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2009 for co-authoring a bold call for ending China's single-party rule and enacting democratic reforms.

China's reception of the two Nobel laureates has been worlds apart.

While it rejected the

honour bestowed on Liu, calling it a desecration of the Nobel tradition, it welcomed Mo's win with open arms, saying it reflected "the prosperity and progress of Chinese literature, as well as the increasing influence of China."

Although Mo has previously said he hopes Liu will be freed soon, he refused to elaborate more on the case.

Some, however, have interpreted Mo's October comments as if he hoped the



A family photo of Liu Xiaobo with his wife Liu Xia.
NG HAN GUAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ist Party line.

Earlier this week, an appeal signed by 134 Nobel laureates, from Peace Prize winners such as South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu to Taiwanese-American chemist Yuan T. Lee, called the detention of Liu and his wife a violation of international law and urged their immediate release.

But Mo suggested he had no plans of adding his name to that petition.

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A Free Syrian Army fighter breaks a hole in the wall of a resident's home on Wednesday during heavy clashes with government forces in Aleppo. NARCISO CONTRERAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Assad's back against the wall as rebels close in

Syrian crisis. President may have no choice but to fight to the death, diplomat says

The battle for Damascus looms closer. As Syrian rebels encircle President Bashar al Assad's stronghold, he will be aware of the fate met by fellow leaders who misruled their people and faced their wrath.

Libya's Moammar Gadhafi dragged out of a drapeme, sodomized and shot. Hosni Mubarak of Egypt jailed for life.

The opposition under the loose umbrella of the Free Syrian Army is battling Assad's forces in the south and eastern suburbs, and on the road to the airport as his warplanes hit back. As the noose tightens around Damascus, the seat of family rule since Assad's late father Hafez, seized power 42 years ago, the president faces tough choices about what to do next. Fight or flee?

An important calculation in his decision is the fate of his Alawite community, a minority who practise an offshoot of Shiite Islam and have been instrumental in suppressing the uprising.

They make up 12 per cent of the population but are the backbone of the regime — 80 per cent of the army's officer class are Alawites.

Assad will fight to the death because the rebels, many of whom are Sunni, would show no mercy, said Nikolaos van Dam, a veteran diplomat with 35 years of experience in Syria.

"This is a battle for death or life," he said. "The regime knows if they are toppled they will simply be killed. It could be a long battle in Damascus."

Violence is spiralling out of control. On Wednesday, 140 people died, the U.K.-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported. The government controls only half of Aleppo and several military bases have been overrun by opposition fighters, according to reports by Syrian-based activists.

Speculation is intensifying about how long the regime can hold on. On Monday, Nabil al Araby, head of the Arab League, told Agence France-Presse that the government could fall at "any time."

An internal coup by officers against Assad is not an option because the new leaders would be overthrown by rebels determined to end the Alawite control of state institutions, van Dam said.

Exile in Russia, which has backed him, or to another country, with his wife, Asma, and their three children, is no guarantee he would not be extradited for war crimes in the future, van Dam said.

Assad fleeing the country to save himself would leave Alawite soldiers and civilians at the mercy of rebels, said Joshua Landis, director of Middle East Studies at Oklahoma University who blogs at Syria Comment.

"The Alawites are counting on Assad to protect his people from possible retribution," he said. "He's kept them hostage, in a sense, and now he can't abandon them."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Global perspective

Worries over chemical weapons

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird is urging China and Russia to lean on the regime of Syrian President Bashar al Assad as reports emerge he could unleash chemical weapons on his people.

The UN Security Council has been powerless to censure Syria because of the objections of veto-wielding Russia and China.

"We have called on countries like Russia and China to use whatever leverage they have to prevent this serious crisis from entering a new, disastrous phase," Baird told the House of Commons on Thursday.

Meanwhile, NATO is following through on its plan to place Patriot missiles and troops along Syria's border with Turkey to guard against potential attacks.

The Assad regime denounces this move as psychological warfare and says it won't stop it from defeating the rebel forces it says are terrorists.

Western countries are wary about arming rebels because of fears of extremists in their ranks.

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Saskatchewan man's mo' raises nearly \$100K

Movember.

Fundraising participant contributes to Canada's continued reputation for having the most mo' donations

ALYSSA MCDONALD
Metro in Regina

A Saskatchewan man has grown the most charitable Movember moustache in the world.

Reed Ludwig was able to raise \$96,346 in his Movember fundraiser, putting him on top of the international leaderboard.

"It's quite overwhelming actually. I still don't know how to describe it. The support has been unbelievable," said Ludwig.



Reed Ludwig METRO

wig at the Saskatchewan legislature Thursday.

Ludwig's efforts were commended by Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall in session Thursday.

"We are really proud that the worldwide Movember leader is from right here in Saskatchewan," said Premier Wall, whose own Movember campaign raised \$15,971.

Ludwig said part of his

motivation to raise money in support of prostate-cancer awareness is because he had a grandfather that dealt with it briefly. He had never participated in Movember before, nor grown a moustache.

"I just said, 'Why not? Lets see what we can do,'" Ludwig told reporters.

He says the feat was a team effort, as the company he works for, MEG Energy, matched donations made by other employees. Ludwig was chosen in October to represent the company as a whole for Movember after he competed in a 10-day moustache-growing competition. The original goal was to raise \$50,000 on site, but Ludwig said it grew to be a lot bigger than that.

According to the Movember website, Canada as a whole raised more money than any other country for the second year in a row.



In sickness and in health

Britain's Prince William stands next to his wife, Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, as she leaves the King Edward VII hospital in central London, Thursday. The couple are expecting their first child, and the Duchess of Cambridge was admitted to hospital suffering from a severe form of morning sickness. ANDREW MATTHEWS, PA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tweet tragedy

Twitter cutting characters

Careful counters of Twitter, beware: You may soon have two fewer characters to share your pithy thoughts.

According to The-NextWeb.com, Twitter is planning to increase the space that links take up within each tweet from 20 to 22 letters — but they're still keeping the notorious 140-character limit.

METRO

Software mogul

McAfee denied political asylum

Software company founder John McAfee was denied political asylum in Guatemala on Thursday and police in Belize said they expected him to be flown back soon for questioning about the killing of a fellow American expatriate.

Guatemalan authorities said McAfee's request for asylum had been denied. McAfee issued a plea on his blog for the public to petition Guatemalan President Otto Perez Molina to let him stay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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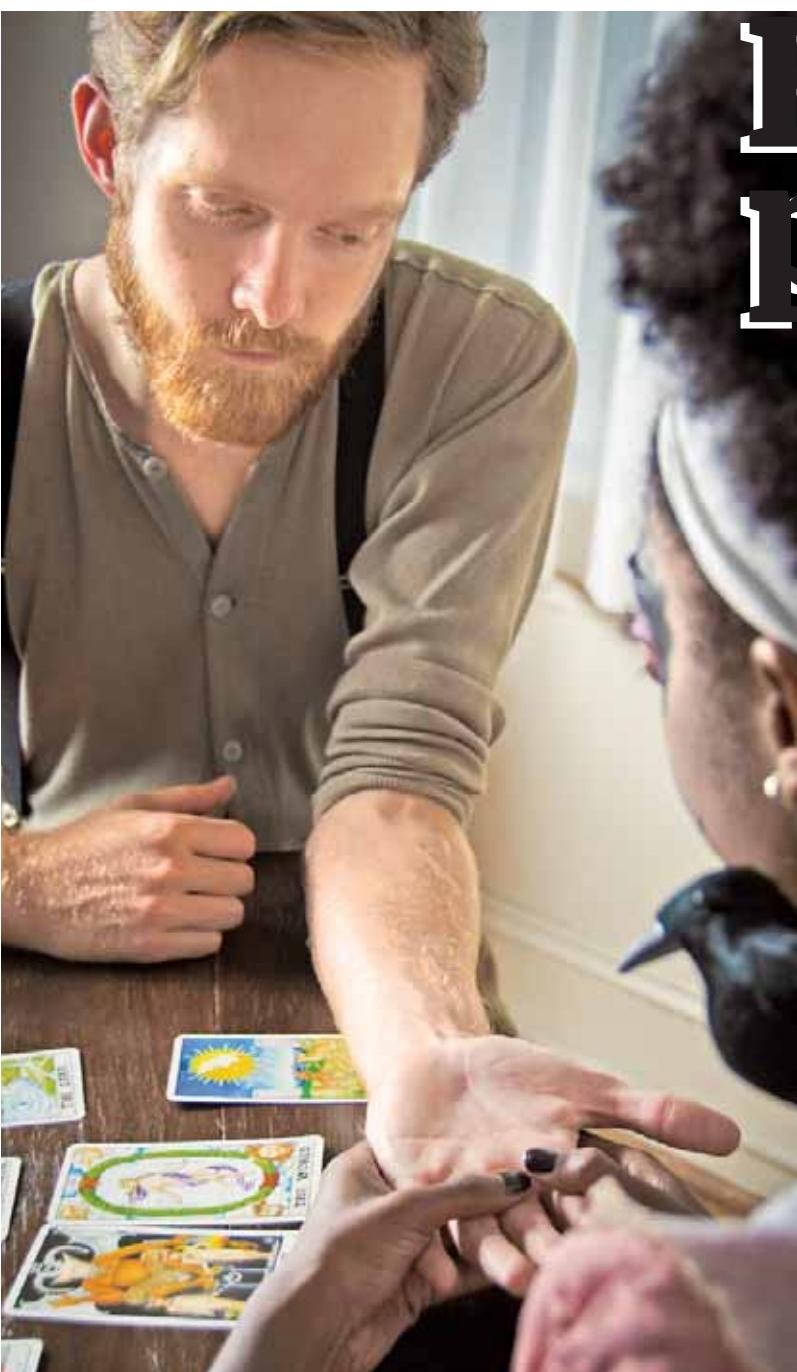
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Bewitching promises



This photo illustrates a tarot reading. People's belief systems make them vulnerable to the kinds of scams run by false mediums, says James Alcock, a York University professor. Those beliefs range from believing in the existence of the occult to thinking that financial advisers' pyramid schemes will make you rich. iSTOCK

Psychic claims. Visit to 'Angel of Love' leaves Toronto man broke and heavy-hearted

"Rick" first went to see Angel because he wanted to find his ex-girlfriend.

He was responding to an ad by a psychic who calls himself the "Angel of Love."

He returned to Angel, repeatedly, because he wanted his band's music to be heard around the world.

Today, the ex-girlfriend hasn't returned, the band is still unknown and Rick is \$11,000 poorer. He doesn't want his real name used because he's deeply embarrassed. He's an intelligent man who holds a good job with the provincial government.

Police say his case is not unique. Last week, Toronto police laid fraud charges against a man claiming to be a witch

Guilt and shame

"My money's gone though ... They're laughing. Probably got a new car."

Rick, who says he was scammed but is too embarrassed to go to the police.

doctor. On Wednesday, police again cautioned the public about three women claiming to be psychics who preyed on two Chinese victims.

There is a fine line between psychics who break the law and those who don't.

According to Toronto police spokesman Const. Tony Vella, offering a psychic reading for money is legal. It becomes fraud if the psychic knowingly frightens the client into giving him money. There is a law against pretending to practice witchcraft, but it's legal to believe you are offering a real psychic reading.

Rick says Angel told him an evil spirit was causing his problems. For a fee, he claimed to be

able to remove the spirit.

Rick met Angel and his female assistant at their office.

"To start off, it's going to be \$900. So I went and I took \$900 from ... my Visa."

He was told to drink a cup of liquid.

"I started barfing right in a cup. I said it's too much. He said it's just the start."

Rick returned to Angel many times since his first visit last spring. He spent another \$3,000, before being told to phone their leader, "Juan," in Miami. That man asked Rick for another \$11,000. Juan convinced him the "evil spirit in the netherworld" would obey their commands, for a price.

"I took out \$8,000 more. It was the most I could get," he said. "He said okay, enough, we'll work on it for you."

Angel didn't show him the spirit like promised, Rick says.

Toronto's Angel of Love has not been convicted of any crime related to his soothsaying business. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Why we fall for scams

You've been very hurt by someone in your past

We're all susceptible to scams when they play on the belief system we've adopted since childhood, according to a psychology professor at York University in Toronto.

"Everybody's vulnerable," said James Alcock, who teaches a class on belief systems. "You could take a

person who doesn't believe in curses, won't believe in psychics, is very careful about responding to spam emails and yet they could be suckered by some financial adviser."

Belief in psychics, witches, curses and spells is deeply rooted in many cultures and people usually pick up those beliefs as children.

While some psychics truly believe in what they're doing, others scam, picking up on their mark's vulnerabilities, said Alcock. "There's a need the person has, or the psychic creates the need, and then they fill the need," he said.

Many psychics use tricks of the trade to read people and gain their confidence, said Alcock. He gives a "cold reading" to a student in his class every year, even though he's not psychic.

"When you're talking to a psychic, you're giving feedback, even if you're trying not to," he said.

The combination of vague statements and careful observation works. Every so often, a student will come up to him privately after class to ask if he really is psychic, because he appeared to know all about some deeply personal thing that happened to them.

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Evidence still sought

Cash for occult proof

A former magician and escape artist is offering \$1 million to anyone who can show evidence of any paranormal, supernatural, or occult power or event in a controlled test.

James Randi offered \$1,000 to the first person who could offer proof of the paranormal in 1964 and since then, no one has been able to claim the prize. With the aid of donors and his educational foundation, the prize grew to \$1 million.

JESSICA SMITH/METRO



In Salem, Mass., metaphysical items such as tarot cards and crystals are counted towards a fortune teller licence. ISTOCK

The ex files: Metro reporter asks 'Angel' to find her guy



JESSICA SMITH

Metro in Toronto

I went to the Angel of Love's office not hoping to find my lost ex-boyfriend, as I told him, but to verify claims the psychic was telling people they were cursed and the way to remove it was to give him money.

I, too, was told that I had been cursed and that it would cost me a lot of money to have my ex-boyfriend back.

We met in the back room of a dingy apartment over a convenience store on Eglinton Avenue West in Toronto. There was no neon sign flashing "psychic," no crystal ball.

Only a pack of tarot cards on the messy desk gave it away as something a little different.

I said I couldn't get in touch with my ex and I was worried about his safety.

Angel spoke in a deep, gravely foreign language and his assistant translated. After a bit of negotiation, he gave me a "reading" for \$40.

"Your luck is not good," said the assistant as Angel

read my tarot cards. "On your luck, depends everything. Love and work. Everything. Money, money comes and money goes."

They told me a lot of people are envious of me. I tried to look pleased, to pass off as vain.

"There is a woman, she is the one that has a lot of envy over you," said the assistant. "She is envious of your relationship."

They asked if I've been to a psychic before. I said no, truthfully.

"He can see witchcraft, spells and those things. There is a person who has probably put them to work on you," said the assistant as Angel read my palm.

The witch's curse is blocking my luck, so everything in my life suffers, he said.

The next day I got bad news. My ex-boyfriend is seeing someone.

I exclaimed, "You found him?" but the assistant explained that that's not what they do. They can just "see" he is seeing someone else now.

I tried to look aggrieved.

"We can always bring him back," said the assistant. "To you, for a price."

The assistant explained that there will be three different sessions required and there are different levels of service I can get. The top tier costs \$1,500, in three payments of \$500.

"They'll bring him back and he'll stay with you forever, he'll love you forever. That's why it's the highest price," he said.

For less money, my ex will return but won't be guaranteed to stay as long — \$1,200 for four years, \$900 for two.

If I opt for any, they will throw in a cure for the spell that the witch put on me and give me a charm that will keep me safe in the future. I told them I'd think it over.

Reached by phone Thursday, Angel's assistant said they have never had any complaints about what they do and he doesn't feel they are taking advantage of people.

LISTEN TO A RECORDING OF JESSICA'S SESSION AT METRONEWS.CA



Salem's ordinance If you can't beat them, license 'em?

Psychics seem to be drawn to Salem, Mass., and its rich history of witchcraft. To keep a handle on things the local government licenses fortune tellers.

The city offers four different kinds of licences, with different rules, said clerk Melissa Pagliaro.

"For a store licence, (it) has to consist of at least 75 per cent ... 'metaphysical' items," she said. "Each store can have up to five readers. They are all subject to an application and a (criminal history) check."

Such items include crystals, anointing oils, amulets, incense, candles, tarot cards, ritual attire, and books related to spiritual study or practice.

CLARE HINES
FOR METRO

For Clare Hines, who has visited psychics for years, it's not about getting back a boyfriend or winning the lottery. It's about keeping in tune with the universe

My great Aunt Nell sometimes said things about which she couldn't — shouldn't — know anything. Details weren't always accurate, but context and implications were.

Aunt Nell would say maybe it was a "gift" or being "sensitive" or having "psychic" powers. She claimed to know no more than anyone else, but that sometimes facts or knowledge revealed themselves to her.

When I was young, Aunt Nell used an ordinary deck of cards for my "readings." It was fun. In my teenage years and later there were no props or formal readings. We just sat and talked. I could tell when she tapped into me. She never spared me the negative — although she once didn't tell a friend he was really ill. And he was. Knowledge could be burdensome.

Aunt Nell said true psychics didn't advertise. One discovered them. Since her passing, I have visited two psychics.

They were not easy to find. It's my experience psychics look like manicurists, administrative assistants and suburban mothers. They use props to aid with concentration. No one ever told me I'd receive a letter soon, take a trip or fall in love. I was told someone always lies to me, bodies of water calm me and I'm my own worst enemy. Indeed.

Sorry, Miss Cleo

Aunt Nell said true psychics didn't advertise. One discovered them.

After visiting a psychic, I'm more in tune with the universe. Implicitly I'm reminded much in life is random, the unpredictable is often more influential than the predictable, that I am not powerless but will never have complete control of anything. However humbling, such wisdom is therapeutic.

My general practitioner once sent me to a psychiatrist to discuss bad dreams and sleeplessness that were affecting my health. Treatment was very helpful. During one session, the psychiatrist asked if I visited psychics: "I suspect they will prove helpful to you." Indeed.

Recent fraud cases

Between 1999 and 2010, five people were charged with pretending to practice witchcraft in Ontario. Toronto police announced two more cases in the last couple of weeks.

- Police said Wednesday they are searching for three female suspects who allegedly conned two women, aged 76 and 53, out of their valuables by offering to "bless" them.

- On Nov. 27, police arrested Gustavo Valencia Gomes of Mississauga, Ont. and charged him with pretending to practise witchcraft and fraud. Maria Roesta, 56, of Brampton, said she went into credit card debt to pay a self-described "healer," who convinced her that her headaches were the result of a curse and extravagant rituals were needed to lift it.

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Justice. Fleury calls on government to beef up sentences for abusers

Former NHL star Theo Fleury is taking aim at Canada's justice system, saying the country's weak penalties for sexual abuse make it a "Disneyland for pedophiles."

The Stanley Cup and Olympic gold medal-winning forward — a longtime advocate for victims of sexual abuse — has launched a new campaign demanding Ottawa beef up sentences for those convicted of abusing children.

Fleury was sexually abused

Repercussions

"I'm tired of people being re-victimized through the system and it absolutely has to stop."

Former NHL forward Theo Fleury

by the disgraced hockey coach Graham James while playing for him in the 1980s.

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A crowd gathers to protest violence against women at the Montreal courthouse on the 23rd anniversary of the Polytechnique massacre Thursday.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM shoots down gun group's push

Public safety. Harper dismisses proposals for easier access to banned weapons

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has issued an unexpected rebuke to his government's own firearms advisory committee, rejecting its recom-

Rejection

"Prohibited weapons exist as a category under the law for essential reasons of public security. The government has absolutely no intention of weakening that category of protections."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper

mendations and suggesting the group's membership may need revisiting.

Documents obtained by the Coalition for Gun Control reveal the committee advised

ing Public Safety Minister Vic Toews wants some prohibited weapons, including hand guns and assault rifles, reclassified to make them more available.

The 14-member group also wants to make firearm licences good for at least 10 years, rather than the current five — a measure opposed by police, who say the five-year renewals are a chance to weed out unstable gun owners.

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Hundreds line up for same-sex marriage licences

Law takes effect.

Washington state joins several other states that allow gay and lesbian couples to wed

Two by two, dozens of same-sex couples obtained their marriage licences in Washington state early Thursday, just hours after Gov. Chris Gregoire signed a voter-approved law legalizing gay marriage.

King County, the state's biggest county, opened the doors to its auditor's office in Seattle just after midnight to start distributing marriage licences. But hundreds of people had lined up hours before, snaking around the downtown Seattle building on a chilly December night. By 6 a.m., 279 licences had been issued. Because Washington state has a three-day waiting



Amy Andrews, right, kisses her partner, Jeri Andrews, on Wednesday as they wait to be among the first to be issued a marriage licence to a same-sex couple in Seattle. ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

period, the earliest that weddings can take place is Sunday.

In Seattle, the mood was festive. Volunteers distributed roses, coffee and fruit. Couples canoodled to keep warm. Champagne was poured. Different groups of men and women serenaded

the waiting line.

"We waited a long time," said 85-year-old Pete Petersen, who, with her partner, 77-year-old Jane Abbott Lighty, were the first to get a licence. They met 35 years ago on a blind date.

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Florida plans to fight mosquitoes with mosquitoes

Dengue fever.
Public-health experiment would see genetically modified males released in hopes they pass birth defect to offspring



In this October photo taken in Key Largo, a dead Aedes aegypti mosquito is held. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mosquito-control officials in the Florida Keys are waiting for the federal government to sign off on an experiment that would release hundreds of thousands of genetically modified mosquitoes to reduce the risk of dengue fever in the tourist town of Key West.

If approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, it would be the first such experiment in the States. Some Key West residents worry that not enough

research has been done to determine the risks that releasing genetically modified mosquitoes might pose to the Keys' fragile ecosystem.

Officials are targeting the Aedes aegypti mosquitoes because they can spread den-

gue fever, a disease health officials thought had been eradicated in the U.S. until 93 cases originated in the Keys in 2009 and 2010.

The trial planned by mosquito-control officials and the British company Oxitect would release non-biting male mosquitoes that have been genetically modified to pass along a birth defect that kill their progeny before reaching maturity.

The idea is that they will mate with wild females and their children will die before reproducing.

After a few generations, Key West's Aedes aegypti population would die off, reducing the dengue-fever risk without using pesticides and at relatively a low cost, the proponents say.

There is no vaccine for dengue fever.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada Post flunks information-request report card – again

Ottawa. Information commissioner finds postal service is still far from achieving transparency

The information watchdog says Canada Post has delivered only marginal improvement on its handling of access-to-information requests.

The post office received an F on its latest report card from Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault after being stamped with red-alert status for its poor performance two years ago.

As reported Wednesday, the CBC got an A for its processing of requests in 2011-12, up from an F for its performance two years ago.

The access law allows people who pay \$5 to seek federal files ranging from expense reports and email messages to briefing notes and internal audits.

As an ombudsman for users of the law, Legault has periodically looked at whether key institutions meet their legal



Canada Post vehicles sit outside a sorting depot in the Ville St-Laurent borough of Montreal in this file photo. Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault has found the postal service has made only a bit of improvement over the past two years in how it processes information requests. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

obligations of transparency.

In her report card on Canada Post, Legault said although the Crown corporation has taken some steps toward improving its performance, it is still far from achieving optimal compliance with the law.

In a statement, Canada Post said it was disappointed with the F rating, as it had taken steps to improve performance. It committed to doing even

better.

During a news conference Thursday, Legault warned that the access-to-information system is vulnerable, especially since the full impact of federal budget slashing has yet to be felt.

The fear is that federal agencies will trim staff responsible for processing requests, creating a risk of backlog and delays. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute



DOLLAR
100.90¢
(+0.06¢)

TSX
12,151.13 (-6.16)

OIL
\$86.26 US (-\$1.62)

GOLD
\$1,701.80 US (+\$8)

Natural gas: \$3.63 (-7¢)
Dow Jones: 13,074.04 (+39.55)

BMO survey

More Canadians have RRSPs than this time last year

An increasing number of Canadians surveyed in a BMO study have invested in a registered retirement savings plan this year.

The BMO Financial Group poll found 67 per cent of respondents have an RRSP, compared to 61 per cent at this time last year.

Nearly three-quarters of respondents plan to contribute the same amount or more to their RRSP than they did last year. Last year's average contribution amount was \$4,670.

Among those who do not have an RRSP, half say they plan to open one in the next five years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Q4 earnings reports

Strong results don't eliminate worry for banks

Shares in TD Bank, CIBC and National Bank of Canada all fell Thursday as worries about the outlook for consumer loans amid record household debt overshadowed earnings reports that met or exceeded expectations.

Despite solid fourth-quarter financial results, National Bank fell 1.4 per to \$76.60, CIBC gave back 0.47 per cent to \$80.14 and TD was off 1.8 per cent, closing at \$81.12.

The performance "reflects what investors see as a challenging environment for the banks," said CIBC World Markets analyst Rob Sedran. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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GOOD NEWS TODAY

The same God who made the Heavens, and the Earth, and everything in them,

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FRACAS ENSUES AFTER F-BOMB DROPPED IN THE HOUSE



THE LIST
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

1 We are amused. The next generation of British royals is gestating, and poor Kate ends up in the hospital, suffering from a right royal bout of morning sickness. After enduring a round-the-clock siege from publicity hounds and pranksters, she emerges looking remarkably well, considering, proving once again that there will always be an England. There might even be twins.

2 Nothing amusing here. The Harper government House leader nearly comes to blows with his NDP counterpart after crossing the floor in a pugnacious manner to deliver a speech composed primarily of the F word. Who elected these clowns? Oh, right.

3 Attack of the killer PM. Why can't we elect somebody cool like Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who takes time out of her busy schedule to reassure her people that even though the world will end on Dec. 21 (as allegedly predicted by the Mayan calendar), she will continue to stand by them to the bitter end, which will be caused by: "flesh eating zombies, demonic hell beasts or from the total triumph of K-Pop." I think she's kidding, but the Tasmanian devil certainly fits the description of a demonic hell beast.

4 Speaking of the end of the world. The poor little misunderstood pop star Justin Bieber is snubbed by the Grammy nominators again in favour of dumb old guys like Jack White, the Black Keys, and Maroon 5. As if!

5 Riot like an Egyptian. The Muslim Brotherhood, now in power as the Arab Spring turns to winter, passes a constitution that prohibits discrimination against anyone, but removes the phrase "on the basis of sex, origin, religion and creed." Uh-oh. The Brotherhood's power grab has blown the lid off the uneasy calm on the streets of Cairo, where spring seems a long, long time ago.

6 Lest we forget. This week marks the 23rd anniversary of the cold-blooded murder of 14 women in Montreal by a crazed misogynist. It remains as horrifying as it did then. And, yes, every man owns a piece of it.

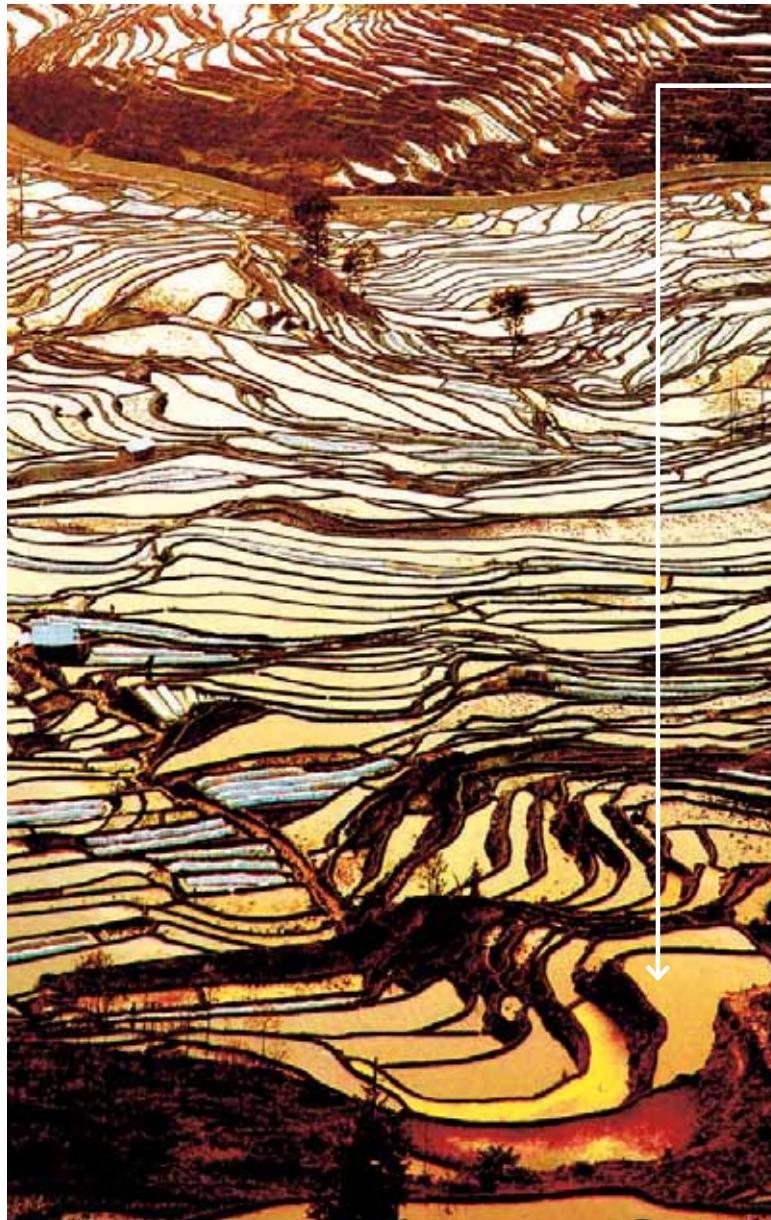
7 What would YOU have done? A bus driver in Vienna finds a sack stuffed with money, (390,000 euros to be precise, worth more than half a million Canadian dollars) and turns it in! It is traced to an elderly lady who left it behind on the bus. For being the world's most painfully honest man, the driver receives a small cash award and, as it's the end of his shift, gets to take the rest of the day off.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList



Peter Van Loan, the government's House leader, set off a dust-up when he stormed across the floor of the House of Commons to confront his NDP counterpart, Nathan Cullen, on Wednesday. SCREENGRAB/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The beauty of making rice



ISABELLE CHAUVEL/SOLENT

Landscape photography

Shining spectacle found in rice fields

At first glance, it looks like a stained-glass window, but a wide gaze reveals something more grand and spectacular.

Reflective pools of water at one of the world's largest rice terraces offer stunning views, especially from 1,800 metres up in the mountains. Isabelle Chauvel took the photos in Yuanyang in China's Yunnan Province. METRO

Natural beauty

Man, nature create visual wonder

Chauvel spent from sunrise to sunset taking photos of the handcrafted rice terraces.

"At each time of the day, the colours reflected in the water were different — from bright orange, off-white, earthy brown and verdant green," she told Metro. "It was a true spectacle of what nature has to offer, and the amazing creation mankind has made." METRO

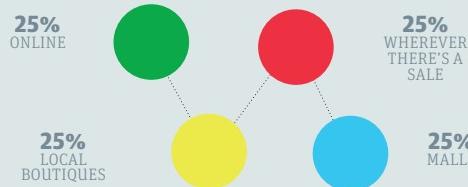
Yuanyang terraces

- Formed by the Hani people more than 1,000 years ago, the fields are still used today for irrigation and farming.
- Fields are irrigated with water from the forest. Water evaporates from fields into clouds — their rain is collected and trapped by mountain forests. In turn, spring water returns to fields.



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Twitter

@emichelestyle:

While waiting for the plane at #yyz airport, I am forced to count wedges. Can't you feel your polyester track pants all up in there??

@onehundredrows:

Is dressing up like a Calgary Transit driver, just to get free rides, illegal? #yyzfood

@steveapproved:

Kesha on one station, Justin Bieber on the other ... Christmas

music it is! #radio #yyz

@CharltonLender:

I laugh at my favorite take-out place every time for hiding & protecting their little Hoisin sauce containers like it's Oxycontin. #yyzfood

@Nia_TaylorGang:

Finding a guy that I'm into in this city, that is faithful, is like owning a unicorn. #reallytho #keep-itinyourpants #whyyousuchahoe #yyz



Even Gerard Butler's trademark rakish smile can't save Playing For Keeps from crashing. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN



Laughless. The Reel Guys agree — Gerard Butler's latest attempt at a rom com has upset the Movie Godz

Richard: Mark, I tried hard to pin point exactly the thing that bugged me about Playing for Keeps. I thought long and hard and have come to realize that we don't have enough space here for me to fully explain why this doesn't work, but let's start with the idea that the women are simply treated as sexed-up plot points and move on from there. What did you think?

Mark: Bad enough that the women are treated as sexed-up plot points; unforgivable that they're all just dropped halfway through the movie. For a while, I thought I was watching

ing a classic sexist Tony Curtis movie. Troglodyte, perhaps, but at least it was a bit of fun. Then the film lost its guts and became the story of a man who — sob — just wants to be reunited — sob — with his family. Yecch!

RC: Yeah. The first half hour is, maybe not exactly promising, but on par for this kind of movie. Then it takes a turn. He has unresolved feelings for his ex-wife and the movie has unresolved plot points falling from the sky like the tears of the Movie Godz who weep when movies this bad get released. Butler's trademarked eye glint and rakish smile are not enough to save this, and someone please tell Uma Thurman to saddle up and work with Quentin Tarantino again.

MB: Speaking of Uma, how much Botox and Restylane is there in the greater Los An-

geles area? Because she's left very little for the rest of us. And Zeta-Jones' vampiring made me feel sorry for Butler — he probably had to endure take after take of her bad Anne Bancroft impression. Only Judy Greer gets to walk away with her dignity intact — but she always does, doesn't she? And the running gag with the East Indian landlord was embarrassing if not borderline racist. C'mon, Richard, give me something to like about this one!

RC: How about this? Katherine Heigl's not in it and it's not longer. At 106 minutes, it tests the limits of endurance. At 107 minutes or more we might have been able to press charges for cruelty. Judy Greer, however, is great and I'm going to have to ask you to be careful what you say about my Uma in future.

MB: I apologize, Richard. I love

Synopsis

Gerard Butler plays George Dwyer, former soccer superstar, now sidelined by injuries. Broke and reduced to selling his own memorabilia to make ends meet, he moves to Virginia to be closer to his ex-wife (Jessica Biel) and their son Lewis (Noah Lomax). When the charming Scot begins coaching his son's soccer team all the soccer moms (Judy Greer, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Uma Thurman) throw themselves at him, but he has eyes for only one woman — his ex-wife.

• Richard: ⚫●●●●

• Mark: ⚫●●●●

her too. It's just that I love her even more when her face can move about.

2 SCENE

Playing for weeps

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SCENE

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WEEKEND, December 7-9, 2012

Drama



Deadfall

Director. Martin Donovan

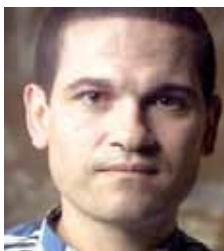
Stars. Eric Bana, Olivia Wilde

• • • •

About the most interesting aspect of *Deadfall* is that it was apparently filmed in a blizzard. Oscar-winning filmmaker Stefan Ruzowitzky (*The Counterfeiters*) may have visual skill but this derivative, contrived thriller about two sibling thieves (Bana, Wilde) that split up in snowbound Michigan only to reunite at a doomed Thanksgiving dinner complete with hostages is so dour, I'd assumed it was farce if every character weren't so utterly unaffected.

STEVE GOW

Documentary



The Imposter

Director. Bart Layton

Stars. Frédéric Bourdin, Carey Gibson

• • • •

In 1994, Nicholas Barclay, a 13-year-old boy from San Antonio, Texas, went missing. Three years later, Frédéric Bourdin, a 23-year-old French man, managed to convince U.S. officials and Nicholas's family that he was the missing teen. Director Bart Layton uses re-enactments, intimate interviews and archival footage to reconstruct this twisted story. Step-by-step, Bourdin recounts his impossible scheme with a sly, self-congratulatory air.

REGAN REID



Don't miss Last Chance

With Human Rights Day on December 10, the National Film Board of Canada is offering a free screening on their website of *Last Chance*, a documentary by Paul Émile d'Entremont featuring five asylum-seekers from Jamaica, Colombia, Lebanon, Egypt and Nicaragua who have fled homophobic violence. Check out NFB.ca, or metronews.ca/scene to see the trailer. CHARLES GAGNON



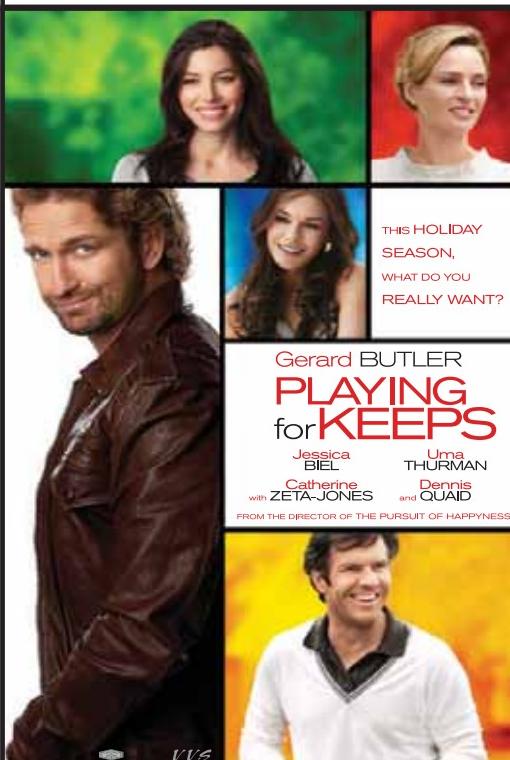
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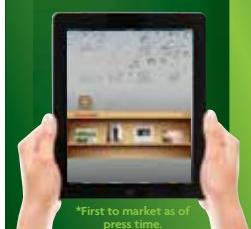
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The first eco-horror movie

Movies. Oscar winner Barry Levinson has made the *Paranormal Activity* of environmental movies. Get ready to be scared by The Bay

 NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

On July 4, 2009, tiny monsters popped out of the Chesapeake Bay near Washington D.C. and horrifically killed innocent people, leaving them battered, bloodied and infected. True story? No, but new movie *The Bay* pretends it is. The flick is filmed in found footage style à la *The Blair Witch Project* and *Paranormal Activity*. Hidden inside is an environmental message: Our waters are toxic. Oscar-winner Barry Levinson created the film, leading us to ask:

A found footage movie seems a strange choice for an Oscar winner. What made you want to do it?

Well, I would not have thought to do a movie like this. It was an evolution. I was approached by the people in Maryland to do a documentary about the Chesapeake Bay because it's 40 per cent dead. I looked into it, I found out that PBS had done a documentary that was terrific, but ultimately nobody really responded or cared or thought that we ought to do something about this largest estuary in the U.S. that's 40 per cent dead, filled with a toxic soup. Then a couple of weeks later I thought, maybe what you need to do is if you took all the facts and you pulled it into a story



"I'll never swim in the bay again."

Movie still of an infested patient.

LIONSGATE

... and you create characters, maybe the facts will become more frightening to us.

Is that the movie equivalent of sneaking medication into someone's dessert?

The information becomes vital to the storytelling. It becomes one and the same; it's connective that way. And so, I think it adds to the experience because it adds the credibility.

What are some of the conditions in the movie that come

from those facts?

Well, take the drinking water. We know the filtration systems in the United States are basically D-rated. That's what they say, it met the standards. It's substandard, but it met the standards. We know our water quality is a D-minus. And we go, "Well that's good enough."

What about the monsters in the film?

They're really isopods and they do exist. They're not in the Chesapeake Bay, but they're

in the Atlantic. In the scene where the oceanographer holds one up to the camera and says, "This is sea lice," that's not a CGI shot. That's a fish that has sea lice on it in South Carolina where we were filming. We've got a lot of stuff that's got a reality base to it that makes it even scarier.

Are there any efforts now to correct the situation in the Chesapeake Bay?

They say there are efforts to fix it. You could correct the

damage if you put a real effort forward. Now they're doing some work, so I won't say they're not doing anything. But they're not doing what you have to do. You've got to be in an emergency mode. And I mean, it's all doable. You can correct it. It's just, "Do you have the will to want to do it or not?"


The Bay is on iTunes now.
www.thebay-movie.com



The money behind Green Cinema

Hollywood is filled with activists behind a good cause, especially the environment. But the history of Green Cinema has had a spotty track record.

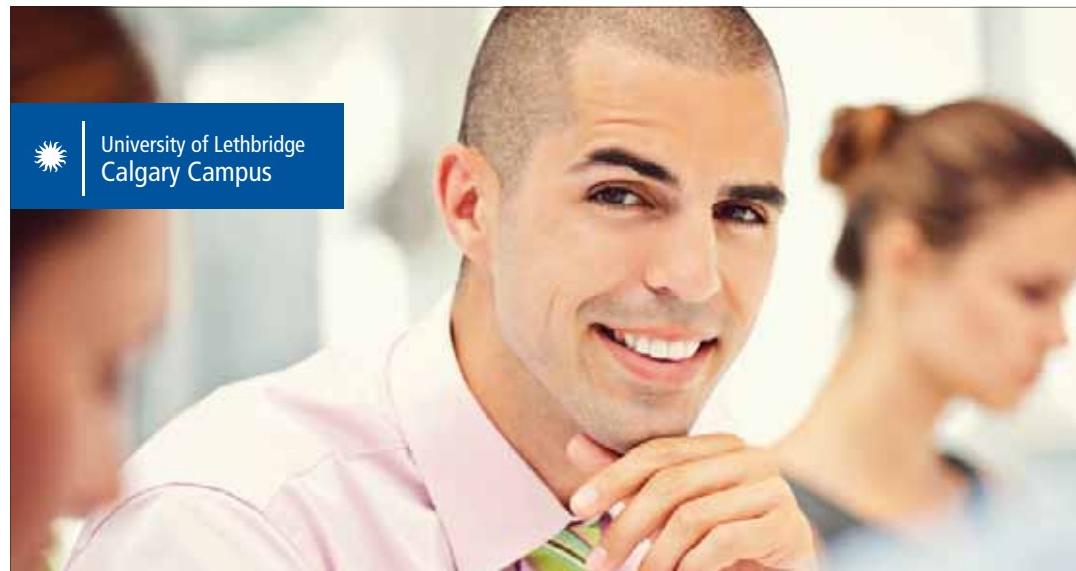
It often works best when the environmental message is inherent to the story, especially if the movie is based on actual events, like *Erin Brockovich* or last year's *Big Miracle*, about one Alaska town's efforts to free a family of whales. And a fictional movie can take its cues from real life, as in *Richard Linklater's Fast Food Nation*, about the horrors of McDonald's.

Hollywood triumphs when it mixes an eco message into mainstream entertainment, like James Cameron's *Avatar* (biggest movie ever), disaster flick *The Day After Tomorrow* (a smash) or Pixar's adorable *Wall-E* (made \$520 million worldwide). This year, director Barry Levinson tries using a gore-filled horror movie, *The Bay*. Made for a small sum, it'll probably make back its money.

There's often no substitute for the truth, and eco-themed documentaries are a long and proud tradition. Famous ones include Al Gore's Oscar-winning *An Inconvenient Truth* and *Waste Land*, a Brazilian movie on making art from Earth's largest landfill.

Meanwhile, Gus Van Sant's *Promised Land* on controversial hydraulic drilling, or fracking, is out next month and in time for Oscar consideration. But will it be a hit or a flop?

NED EHRBAR



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Green heroes and zeroes

Hero

Gisele Bundchen

 The Brazilian model was named the Best Green International Celebrity at last year's Green Awards, and since 2009 is UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador.

Hero

Daryl Hannah

 The U.S. actress-activist has been arrested while at protests for eco groups. A vegan and the driver of a biodiesel car, Hannah records video blogs on sustainability.

Hero

Mark Ruffalo

 Green on screen (as Hulk in *The Avengers*), green in life, the U.S. actor stopped by Metro's New York office for Earth Day last year to guest-edit the newspaper.

Zero

Mariah Carey

 Airmiles addict diva is famous for an overindulgence of her private jet. She's even been known to fly a personal trainer into New York just for a workout.

Zero

John Travolta

 His passion for aviation leaves a hefty carbon footprint. One group estimated that the actor's hobby generates an average of 800 tons of carbon emissions a year.

Zero

Toby Keith

 The U.S. country music star warrants a mention for no other reason than releasing the song *Red Solo Cup*, which celebrates the popular plastic drinking vessel.

NED EHRBAR

From horror to comedy, the holidays give us plenty of time for movies

Preview. Metro looks at some of the upcoming flicks hitting theatres near you

UPCOMING COMEDIES

All that holiday family time will leave most of us in need of a few good laughs.

The Guilt Trip

Dec. 19 — This road trip movie starring Seth Rogen and Barbra Streisand aims to plumb the treasure trove of jokes to be made about a mother and son going on a road trip across the country.



The Guilt Trip HANDOUT

This is 40

Dec. 21 — As the "sort of sequel" to 2007's Knocked Up, this Judd Apatow film follows committed couple Debbie and Pete (Leslie Mann and Paul Rudd) as they struggle with aging and each other.

Quartet

Jan. 11 (limited) — Dustin Hoffman directs this comedy about a British retirement home for opera singers and the longtime resident who reunites with a lost love. Pretty much, it's Best Exotic Marigold Quartet.

A Haunted House

Jan. 11 — Marlon Wayans, Cedric the Entertainer and

Nick Swardson finally give Paranormal Activity and all those exorcist movies the send-up they deserve.

Movie 43

Jan. 25 — Like those monster ensemble rom coms such as Valentine's Day and New Year's Eve, this comedy packs in a load of stars but promises to be a least a little bit more enjoyable than the aforementioned cheesefests.

SCI-FI, HORROR, ACTION

Despite being the season for high-concept movies, the horror and action genres have plenty to offer this winter.

Texas Chainsaw 3D

Jan. 4 — It's yet another remake of the classic horror flick, but this time the story follows a young woman who journeys to Texas to gather her inheritance, which happens to be in the home of Leatherface.

Mama

Jan. 18 — Annabel and Lucas, a young couple, must raise his two young nieces after being left to fend for themselves by their late parents. They soon discover the girls' dark past, which includes a relentless spirit called Mama.

The Last Exorcism 2: The Beginning of the End

March 1 — If you can get past the film's misleading predecessor, the sequel picks up somewhere down the track as Nell Sweetzer attempts to move on from the past, but is confronted by the sinister force that previously possessed her.

Gangster Squad

Jan. 11 — If Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone aren't enough to



This is 40, starring Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann. HANDOUT

get you interested, this film looks set to be one of the best winter releases. The action flick follows the LAPD's struggle with the East Coast Mafia during the '40s and '50s.

Parker

Jan. 25 — Jason Statham steps back into his signature role as an action hero, but this time he plays a thief who forms an alliance with an unlikely friend (Jennifer Lopez) to get revenge on his gang.



Parker HANDOUT

Hansel and Gretel Witch Hunters

Jan. 25 — The name pretty much sums it up. The flick is a modern take on the classic fairy tale in which we see Hansel and Gretel on a pur-

suit for vengeance against the witches who tortured them as children.

Jack Reacher

Dec. 21 — In this adaptation of the Lee Child crime series, Tom Cruise plays an ex-military homicide investigator who steps in to solve a case in which a trained sniper is accused of killing five random innocents.

FILMS LIKELY TO SCORE A GOLDEN STATUETTE

1. Killing Them Softly

Friday — Brad Pitt stars in this dark underworld thriller about a pair of small-time crooks that rob a mobster card game. Soon an enforcer (Pitt) is sent in to make sure that debts are properly paid.

2. Hyde Park on Hudson

Friday (limited) — Bill Murray, Laura Linney and Olivia Williams star in this depiction of the affair between FDR and

his distant cousin, Margaret Stuckley, during the landmark visit of the first reigning British royals on American soil.

3. Amour

Dec. 19 (limited) — The winner of the 2012 Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival has yet to leave anything but a stirring impression on those who have seen it. Austrian filmmaker Michael Haneke's depiction of an elderly couple facing their mortality guarantees a beautifully heart-rending experience.

4. Zero Dark Thirty

Dec. 19 (limited) — After her Oscar win for 2008's The Hurt Locker, Kathryn Bigelow presents another military drama in the Middle East, this time following the hunt and execution of Osama Bin Laden.

5. The Impossible

Dec. 21 (limited) — Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor star in the true story of one family's struggle to survive the tsunami that struck the coast of Thailand in 2004.

6. Not Fade Away

Dec. 21 (limited) — The mastermind behind The Sopranos, David Chase, writes and directs this nostalgic drama about a fledgling rock band trying to make it big in 1960s New Jersey. And yes, James Gandolfini (formerly known as Tony Soprano) does make an appearance.

7. On the Road

Jan. 18 (limited) — This long-awaited adaptation of Jack Kerouac's beloved beatnik novel stars Garrett Hedlund, Kirsten Dunst and of course a topless-at-one-point Kristen Stewart as a bunch of roustabout rebels in the late '50s, trying to discover what it means to be free.

8. Django Unchained

Dec. 25 — Vigilante justice is

the cornerstone of any Quentin Tarantino film, and his 2012 offering promises to deliver the obligatory amount of gratuitous bloodshed. Jamie Foxx plays a freed slave who is assisted in revenge by his mentor, played by Christoph Waltz.



Django Unchained HANDOUT

9. Les Miserables

Dec. 25 — Some Oscar wins are practically in the hands of director Tom Hooper already for his adaptation of the Broadway musical, originally penned as a novel by Victor Hugo. By recording the live singing performances of stars Russell Crowe, Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway and others, the film stands to break new ground for musical adaptations that eschew the cheese factor.

10. Promised Land

Jan. 4 — Matt Damon, Frances McDormand, John Krasinski and Rosemarie DeWitt star in this film about a natural gas company salesman who experiences a conflict of interest when arriving in a small town that is the next target for prospecting.

11. The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Dec. 14 — The first installment of Peter Jackson's latest Tolkien trilogy is sure to pick up at least a few technical awards for its daring method of shooting film at twice the speed of regular film (48 frames per second, as opposed to the traditional 24). METRO

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Richard Armitage plays Thorin Oakenshield, exiled dwarf king, in *The Hobbit*. HANDOUT

Richard Armitage's unexpected journey to becoming a dwarf

The Hobbit. Actor credits Tolkien with pushing his imagination and leading him to acting

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

In *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, British actor Richard Armitage plays Thorin

Oakenshield, exiled dwarf king. He's a newcomer to the Peter Jackson vision of Middle Earth — which began with the three Lord of the Rings films, and continues with a new Hobbit trilogy — but no stranger to the world of author J.R.R. Tolkien.

"I am one of those people who have loved the book," he says. "I remember being read *The Hobbit* by a teacher in primary school who did amazing voices. God bless her. I picked up the book

myself and started reading it, which was kind of rare because normally I would have to be forced to read."

He missed the chance to audition for the first set of films, but when *The Hobbit* came around he jumped at the chance.

"I had no idea how I would fit into that story because the idea of playing a dwarf just wasn't on my radar. I'm six foot three and a half, so why on earth would I play a dwarf?"

It wasn't the first time he was excited to bring the fantasy of Middle Earth to life.

"I was in a stage production of *The Hobbit* when I was 13," he says, "which I leapt at. It's weird how you have that reaction when someone says they're doing a stage production, at 13 to go. 'I've read that book. I love it. Let me be in it.' I had the same feeling when they were making this movie."

He says thoughts of that long ago play are "filled with

strange memories."

"I remember wearing a knitted smock, which had been sprayed silver to look like chain mail but it was made of wool. I was an elf. I was pretty tall for 13 years old. Gollum was made of paper and they didn't have enough money for a dragon, so it was a red light, a puff of smoke and a man off stage with a microphone. I remember running around in circles eating grapes because we were doing a scene

in the forest where the Elves are tempting the dwarves to come to their feast."

He draws a straight line between his early love of Tolkien and his current profession.

"My imagination was totally stimulated by Tolkien's world and I think once you've had your imagination stimulated in that way, every book you ever read you dramatize in your head. You hear character's voices and visualize that world."

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**Canyon Meadows
Bay 110 13226 Macleod
Trail,
403-670-5444**

Beasts of the Southern Wild (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-6:45
The Bourne Legacy (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-8
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:7:15
Here Comes the Boom (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:20
Hotel Transylvania (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:55-7 Fri-The 1:25-3:55-7:05
House at the End of the Street (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Ice Age: Continental Drift (G) Fri-Thu 1:3-40-7
Looper (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:50-6:55-9:25
The Man With the Iron Fists (18A)

Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:25-9:40
Seven Psychopaths (18A) Fri-Thu 9:30
Sinister (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Taken 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:45-7:10-9:25
Ted (18A) Fri-Thu 9:20
Trouble With the Curve (PG) Fri-Thu 4:9-10

**Crowfoot Crossing
91 Crowfoot Terrace,
403-547-3316**

Argo (14A) Fri-Sun 12:2-35-7:25 Mon-Wed 1:50-7:05 Thu 1:50-7
A Christmas Story (STC) Sat 11
Flight (18A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:35-6:55-10 Mon-Wed 12:45-3:50-6:55-9:25
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) No Passes Thu 10

Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3-5:30-8-10:25 Mon-Wed 2:40-5:30-8-10:25 Thu 2:40-5:05-7:45-10:25 Life of Pi (3D) Fri-Wed 1:10-4:15-7:15-10:05 Thu 1:10-4:15-7:05-10:05 Lincoln (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-3:15-6:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:30-5:10-8:25 The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Live (STC) Sat 10:55 Miracle on 34th Street (STC) Sun 12:45 Wed 7 Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Sun 11:55-2:25-5:7:35-10:15 Mon-Tue 2:25-5:7:40-10:10 Wed 5:7:40-10:10 Thu 2:25-5:7:40-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1 Red Dawn (PG) Fri-Sun 5:10-10:10 Mon-Wed 4:35-9:55 Thu 4:35 Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 12:10 Mon-Wed 2 Thu 12:55

Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:30-4:55-7:20-9:40 Mon-Wed 4:55-7:20-9:40 Thu 3:10-5:30-7:55 Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (STC) Thu 7:30 Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Sun 1:4-05-7:9-55 Mon-Tue 1:4-05-7:9-50 Wed 4:05-7-9:50 Thu 1:4-05-6:55-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1 Skyfall (14A) Fri 12:15-12:45-3:25-3:55-6:40-7:10-9:50-10:20 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:25-3:55-6:40-7:10-9:50-10:20 Mon-Tue 12:50-1:20-4:45-7:10-8:10-10:20 Wed 12:45-1:05-3:45-4:05-7:10-9:05-10:20 Thu 12:50-1:20-4:45-7:10-10:20 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri-Sun 2:05-4:45-7:40-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:25-7:35-10:15 Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Sun 12:20

Mon-Thu 2:10 Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:50-5:20-7:55-10:30 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:55-10:30

**Eau Claire Market
200 Barley Parade,
403-263-3166**

Argo (14A) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30 Mon-Wed 5:50-8:40 Hitchcock (PG) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:4-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:30 Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri 7:30-10:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 6:20-9:20 Lincoln (PG) Fri 6:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 2:30-6:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:50 Skyfall (14A) Fri 7-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-7:10-10:20 Mon-Thu 6:9-10 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri 7:20-10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:20-10 Mon-Tue 6:30-9:30 Wed 9:30 Thu 6:30-9:30

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WEEKEND, December 7-9, 2012

403-974-0470

Flight (18A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:20-3:40-6:50-10:10 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 12:20-3:30-6:40 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Digital Presentation, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 10 Digital Presentation, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 10 Killing Them Softly (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:45-4:40-7:40-10:25 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 4:40-7:40-10:25 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 1:45-4:40-7:40-10:25 Life of Pi (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10 Life of Pi 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:15-7:15-10:20 Red Dawn (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30 Rise of the Guardians (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 1:15 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 12:10 Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:15-7:10-9:50 Skyfall (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 2:6-15-9:45 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 12-2-3:20-6:15-6:45-9:45-10:15 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12-3:20-6:45-10:15 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7:30-10:30 Wreck-It Ralph (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45 Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:50-7:20-10:05

**Empire Studio 16
Country Hills
388 Country Hills Blvd.,
403-686-8491**

(STC) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Wed 2:45-8:30 (STC) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-The 2:50-6:15-9:30 Flight (18A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:35-4-7:05-9:55 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 4:05-9:55 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Thu 11 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Thu 10 Khiladi 786 (STC) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 2:55-6-9:10 Killing Them Softly (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:4-10-7:30-10:15 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 4:10-7:30-10:15 Life of Pi (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:25 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 1 Life of Pi 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-The 3:25-6:40-9:35 Lincoln (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:15-3:35-6:45-10:05 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 3:35-6:45-10:05 Playing for Keeps (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:25-4:20-7:45-10:15 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 4:20-7:45-10:15 Red Dawn (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:20-4:05-7:25-9:55 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Wed 4:05-7:25-9:55 Rise of the Guardians (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:05 Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 3:40-6:55-9:25 Skyfall (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:05-12:40-3:20-4:30-6:30-8:15-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 3:20-4:30-6:30-8:15-9:50 Skyfall: The IMAX Experience (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:15-3:30-7-10:10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Wed 3:30-7-10:10 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:40-4:45-7:50-10:30 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 4:40-7:50-10:30 Wreck-It Ralph (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:10 Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Wed 3:55-7:10-9:40 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 3:55-7:10

**Globe Cinema
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308**

Deadfall (18A) Fri 7:10-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:10-7:10-9:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:10 Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has to Travel (PG) Fri 7:45 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:20-7:9 Mon-Thu 7:9

**Chinook
6455 MacLeod Trail,
403-222-8994**

Anna Karenina (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Argo (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-6:50-9:45 A Christmas Story (STC) Sat 11 Cloud Atlas (14A) Fri 1:30-5-8:30 Sun 5:30-8:30 Mon-Tue 1:30-5:30 Wed 12-3:45 Thu 12-4 Flight (18A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:40-7:05-10:25 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) No Passes Thu 10 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) No Passes Thu 10 Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri 2:15-5:05-7:55-10:45 Sun-Tue 2:15-5:05-7:55-10:45 Wed 7:55 Thu 7:55-10:45 Wed 12:2-5:00-10:45 Thu 12-2:50-6 Lincoln (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Live (STC) Sat 10:55 Miracle on 34th Street (STC) Sun 12:45 Wed 7 Pitch Perfect (PG) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:05-6:55-9:35 Wed 1:30-4:05-6:55-9:35 Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Wed 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30 Thu 4:30-7:50-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1 Red Dawn (PG) Fri-Wed 2:20-4:40-7:35-10 Thu 2:20-4:40-10:25 Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:10 Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Thu 5:40-8:10-10:35 Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (STC) Thu 7:30

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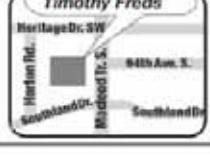
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Keira Knightley wears imperialist Russian style well in *Anna Karenina*.

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**Chinook
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Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Thu 2:20-5:20-8:10-10:55
Skyfall (14A) Fri-Wed 1-3:40-4:10-7:30-10:10-10:50 Thu Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Skyfall: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:50-7-10:15 Thu 12:20-3:30-6:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri 1-2:15-5-7:25-7:50-10:40 Sat 11:40-1-2:15-5-7:25-7:50-10:40 Sun-Thu 1-2:15-5-7:25-7:50-10:40
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri 12-2:40 Sat 11-12-2:40 Sun-Wed 12-2:40 Thu 12-2:30 Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Wed 5:15-8:10-40 Thu 5-7:30

**Plaza Theatre
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W.,
403-283-3636**

Cloud Atlas (14A) Fri 7:30 Sat 6 Sun 3-6:15 Mon-Tue 7 Thu 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Wed Sunridge Spectrum
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200 (STC) Fri 12:45-4:40-8:30 Sat 1:05-5-8:30 Sun-Thu 12:45-4:40-8:30 (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:35-6:50-10 24/7 in Love (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:50

6:55-10
A Christmas Story (STC) Sat 11 Flight (18A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-7-10:15

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) No Passes Thu 10 Khiladi 786 (STC) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:05-8
Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:10-7:45-10:25 Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:30-6:40-9:45
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4-7:30-10:10 Wed 4-7:30-10:10 Thu 1-4-7:30-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Red Dawn (PG) Fri-Wed 1:30-4:15-6:45-9:40 Thu 1:30-4:15-9:40 Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Thu 12:20
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Skyfall (14A) Fri-Sun 2:30-6:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:45-5-8:20 Fri-Sun 12:15-3:40-7-10:20 Mon-Wed 12:15-3:30-6:45-10:10 Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-7:15-10:05 Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Tue 1:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1 Thu 1:15 Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Thu 4:20-7:10:55 The Uptown Stage & Screen 612 8th Ave. S.W., 403-265-0120

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Argo (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:10 Flight (18A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:30 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:35 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) No Passes Thu 10 Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:10-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 6-9 Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:50-7:20-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:20 The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera (STC) Sat 10:55 Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:30-7:25-10 Mon-Thu 6:10-8:50 Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 12:30 Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:45-5-7:40-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:40-8 Skyfall (14A) Fri 12:20-12:50-3:30-4-6:40-7:10-9:50-10:20 Sat 12:50-3:30-4-6:40-7:10-9:50-10:20 Sun 12:20-12:50-3:30-4-6:40-7:10-9:50-10:20 Mon-Tue 5:20-5:45-8:25-8:55 Wed 5:20-8:25-8:55 Thu 5:20-5:45-8:25-8:55 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:30 Mon-Wed 5:55-8:40 Thu 4:55-7:30 Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Sun 12:45 Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:20-7-9:40 Mon-Wed 5:20-7:50 Thu 4:50-7:20

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An advertisement for a Jeremy Hotz concert. It features a man standing next to an orange van with "Magical Mystery Tour" written on it. The text includes:

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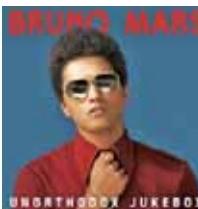
Alan Cross
scene.metronews.ca

We've almost reached the end of the 2012 album release season. Will these albums help keep sales ahead of last year?



**Young Girls/
Bruno Mars**

The second video from Unorthodox Jukebox, which is due out on Tuesday. His label is hoping for a No. 1 debut.



**Dirty Love/
Ke\$ha feat.
Iggy Pop**

This was one of the tracks that leaked early from Ke\$ha's Warrior album. Includes the lyrics "Cockroaches do it in garbage cans/Rug merchants do it in Afghanistan."



**Reel 1 (Diary)/
Angels &
Airwaves**

One of the very last big-name releases of the year will come with Tom Hoppus' (Blink 182) side project on Dec. 18. Stomping the Phantom Brake Pedal is officially a double EP of "evolved" and "reimagined" tracks.

Snooki and JWOWW to host MTV's New Year's Eve special

Times Square. Ke\$ha, Ne-Yo and Sean Kingston to perform during 'sweaty, drunken, dance-fueled orgy of bliss'

New York's Times Square is getting a little bit Jersey for New Year's Eve.

MTV says Jersey Shore stars Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi and Jenni "JWOWW" Farley, as well as comedian Jeff Dye, will host the network's live New Year's Eve special from Times Square.

MTV's Club NYE 2013 will also feature performances from Ke\$ha, Ne-Yo, Sean Kingston, Rita Ora and others. Ke\$ha described the final night of the year as a time when people come together to celebrate "in a sweaty, drunken, dance-fueled orgy of bliss."

Polizzi said she is hoping

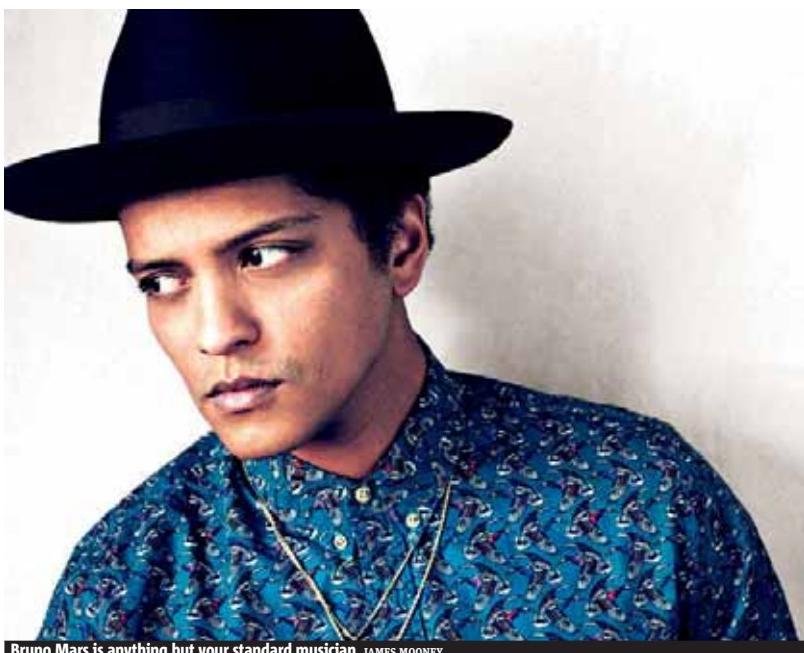
iTunesXM SATELLITE RADIO



Snooki hopes to use a leopard, bedazzled mic while hosting a live New Year's Eve special with JWOWW. GETTY IMAGES

to use "a leopard bedazzled microphone" for her hosting duties.

The special is set to air at 11 p.m. ET on Dec. 31.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Bruno Mars is anything but your standard musician. JAMES MOONEY

Bruno Mars plans on playing until his fingers bleed

New album. The out-of-the-box musician talks about what went into making his latest effort, *Unorthodox Jukebox*

NINA ETRUP
Metro World News

Bruno Mars was born and raised in sunny Hawaii. He's sold millions of records. And he has those chocolatey brown eyes. His shirt is mostly unbuttoned and he speaks slowly while stirring milk into a huge cup of coffee and settling into a huge, brown leather couch.

Relaxed, cool and confident — that's how he appears while talking about his new album, *Unorthodox Jukebox*. And he probably is, at least today. But that's not how he feels all the time. The 27-year-old singer had a very hard time getting started on the album, the successor to his hugely successful debut *Doo-Wops & Hooligans* from 2010.

"I went through writer's block — two months of being uninspired. It was just weeks and weeks of going back into the studio and trying to write something that means something. It's not easy. It gets scary, and I was afraid I'd never be able to write anything ever again," says the singer.

"Suddenly, for some rea-

A little more from Bruno

One more quote:

• **On the title of the album *Unorthodox Jukebox*.** "I was always told that my music was too unorthodox, too all over the place. That really chapped my ass, because I'm all over the place. The way I write music and all the music that I enjoy is what makes me unorthodox. To the suits that's a bad thing, because they have to think about marketing and what radio station will play this song and who will listen to it. Is it a young audience? An urban audience? A rock audience? I never understood all these questions."

son, it started flowing again. That part of my brain turned back on," he explains.

Bruno Mars thinks that it was the many months that he spent on tour after releasing *Doo-Wops & Hooligans* that made it difficult to get back into song-writing mode.

"Maybe it was because I was coming off tour and I was trying to get my mind to work like that again. You have such a repetitive life on tour, travelling and singing the same songs over and over again. When you take all of that away, the transition

... You've been playing the same chords and now you're trying to teach yourself new chords," he says.

Even though he's named after professional wrestler Bruno Sammartino, music, not sports, was No.1 in Bruno Mars' childhood home in Hawaii. Both his parents are singers, and he's been performing in front of a real audience — not just mom and dad in the backyard — since he was three or four years old.

He's had the same idols since then too. He's still a fan of Michael Jackson, Prince, Freddie Mercury and Sting — and yes, his new hit song *Locked Out of Heaven* may sound somewhat like The Police, he admits, grinning.

"There's an '80s kind of a feel to it. It wasn't planned, but my love for these chord progressions and the synth drum machines that were popularized in the 80s came out on this album much more than on the first one. I feel like ... in the '80s there were singers, real strong singers," he says.

"Today, it's more like 'the era of computer-programmed.' There's a beauty in that too — I'm not a snob that's gonna say, 'This is not real music.'

It's just not his taste. Bruno Mars likes the guys who played their instruments, till — as Bryan Adams said — their fingers bled. And that's how he's made a career for himself too.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

'Tis the season in the city for these two starlets



THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Sarah Jessica Parker and Naomi Watts not only juggle A-list acting careers as well as their families, but they also somehow find the time to take advantage of New York City's many cultural opportunities (annoying, I know).

"We have incredible museums that are affordable and free, we have tons of wonderful ballet companies. I try to do all these things with my children. Simply walking up and down the streets of New York — there's art everywhere, there's things to talk about," said Parker Thursday night at the New 42 Gala, which honoured the Australia Council for the Arts as well as supported the New Victory Education Program.

Naomi Watts — who was there with her children, Sasha, 5, and Samuel, 4, and partner Liev Schreiber — agrees. "We've done a



few shows with the kids. It's a treat," she said.

But lest you think Parker and Watts are so perfect they only fill their children's heads with intellectual goodness, rest assured both women have fallen prey to holiday craziness.

"We're pretty conventional," says Parker about her holidays with her family, which includes husband, actor Matthew Broderick, son James, 10, and twin daughters Marion and Tabitha, 3. "We like to be together, we like to eat, we play Yankee Trader."

Meanwhile, it seems like



the Liev/Watts household has fallen victim to the holiday terrorist that is Elf on the Shelf. (For those of you lucky enough not to know what this is, the Elf on the Shelf is a doll who allegedly spies on your kids at Christmas time and has to be moved night after night by the parents. It's great for about a hot minute.)

"I think they're getting into the whole Santa Claus thing," Watts said about her little family. "They've got the Elf on the Shelf and every night he moves."

WITH REPORTING BY
OLIVIA MORROW

A second sleepover for Swift and Styles



Taylor Swift ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



Kate Middleton

Sovereign stork to arrive in the summer

It's going to be a summer baby for Kate Middleton, according to Life & Style. "She's due in July, which is a month full of significance for William," a source says. "His mother, Diana, was born on July 1, and his parents got married on July 29." As for who the godparents will be for the new prince or princess? Signs are pointing to Prince

Harry and Pippa Middleton, according to ABC News. "Kate is very close to her sister, Pippa, and William is infinitely, in the same way, close to Prince Harry. So they are the obvious choice," royal contributor Victoria Arbiter Brown says. "They were the best man and the chief bridesmaid at their wedding, they're well-trusted, they're family."

Twitter

@ParisJackson

that fantastic moment when Bohemian Rhapsody comes on the radio and you just blast it and rock out so hard you just forget all your problems



@samantharonson

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Lizzy Caplan doesn't have Twitter, so go to her house to tell her she's awesome: 6750 Sunset Blvd., LA, CA 90028



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anybody know where i put my ability to spell words correctly? i swear, i just had it.

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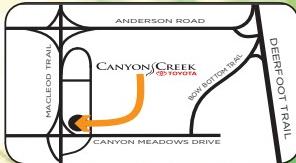
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LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
[@therealwineguy](http://therealwineguy)
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

If there's a liquid silver lining to winter being around the corner, it's that port season has officially arrived.

This time of year provides chilly nights and the opportunity for roaring fires, both perfect companions to a glass of the king of Portuguese wine.

For some of you, port carries more baggage than the Kardashian sisters on a three-day vacation. The term has been used by countries the world over (including Canada) on the labels of generic, booze-infused wines that totally take the regal name of port in vain.

Most have stopped, and true port is finding a new audience as a luxurious meal ender or cigar companion (if you're so inclined).

Choosing the port that's right for you can be a struggle. Most are expensive and not all are appropriate for drinking right away.

A Late Bottled Vintage style, like Taylor's 2005 LBV (\$16.45 to \$24.99), is a mid-priced blend of wines all produced in the same year. Smooth, with deep, dark berry fruit, an LBV is drinkable right out of the bottle, will keep for several weeks once opened and makes a great introduction to the world of port. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

WEEKEND

Step up fancy factor with Prime Veal Chop

Prime Veal Chop with Pesto and Feta

Cheese. It may be hard to believe, but this delicious recipe takes just three ingredients to make



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I created this recipe for The Pickle Barrel chain of restaurants in Toronto.

The veal chop is beautifully lean and tender. The combination of pesto and feta complements it beautifully and gives the dish a Mediterranean twist.

This goes well with grilled vegetables and mashed potatoes.

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray with cooking oil.

Ingredients

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 14 minutes

- four 6- to 8-oz prime veal chops with bone in (also known as the French cut)
- 2 tbsp pesto
- 2 tbsp crumbled feta cheese



This recipe serves four. BRIAN MACDONALD, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

2. Spray a non-stick skillet with cooking oil and place over medium-high heat. Cook the veal on both sides just until seared and browned, approximately 2 minutes per side. Place on the prepared baking

sheet.

3. Spread both sides of the veal with pesto sauce and sprinkle with the feta, patting the cheese down firmly.

4. Bake for approximately 10 minutes, until the internal temperature registers about 135 F for medium-rare, or to desired doneness. Let rest 5 minutes.

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Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill? Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events courtesy of Notable.ca. To get even more info on these Notable happenings, make sure to check out notable.ca/nationwide/metro/Dec7



NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals



Black Tie One On

Happening at Stride Gallery (1004 Macleod Tr.), this "black tie affair" and live auction of original artworks will celebrate Stride's year and raise funds in support of programming operations. Donated artworks will include a special selection of glow-in-the-dark works and a diversity of original pieces. There will also be an abundance of prizes and other treats up for grabs — theatre tickets, gift certificates, and more. Friday, 7 p.m. to midnight.



Handel's Messiah

The Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra once again brings you Handel's Messiah at the Jack Singer Concert Hall (205 8 Ave. S.E.) on Friday and Saturday. With the message of faith and hope that has inspired audiences for centuries, this performance features an outstanding cast of soloists and a brilliant new interpretation under the guiding hand of chorus master Timothy Shantz. This will be a truly uplifting performance.



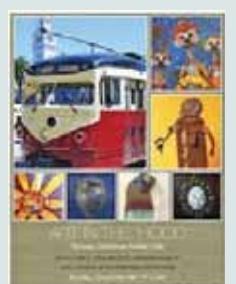
Calgary Food Blogger Bake Sale — Holiday Edition

More than 20 of Calgary's food bloggers are coming together for this special and delicious one-day event! Head down to Casel Marché (2505 17 Ave. S.W.) this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to check out the various booths of goodies set up in Market 17 and J. Webb Wine Merchant (who is having a big holiday sale). Stock up on wine and baking for the holidays as you support local charity Calgary Meals on Wheels.



Singles Night Out Saturday

Want to meet some new people while you learn a thing or two in the kitchen? Then check out Singles Night Out at the Interactive Culinary Centre (227 10 St. N.W.) on Saturday. This interactive evening will have you creating alongside your classmates, followed by an amazing three-course meal with wine sampling that will be enjoyed in a fun group setting. cuisineandchateau.com.



Art in the Hood — Xmas Sale

In need of some unique gifts? Head to Ramsay Community Hall (1136 8 St. S.E.) on Sunday between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. for the Ramsay Christmas Artisan Sale, showcasing the talented folks in and outside of the Ramsay community. This sale is full of amazing artwork.



A night of spokenword

Enjoy spoken word? Head to Pages Books on Kensington (1135 Kensington Rd.) Dec. 12 for a full evening of this unique art form. Spoken word poets include Ryan Seymour, Celine Chuang, Pleasant and Wakefield Brewster, who will be hitting the stage from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Stick around to enjoy refreshments and mingle with the artists.

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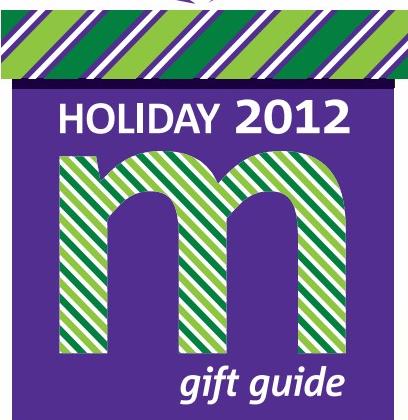
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Warm clothing ideas for the children
this season — PAGE 50



Look your best during — and after — the
holidays — PAGES 52, 53, 54



Click on these ideas for the videophile
on your gift list — PAGE 48



A black and white photograph of a man and a woman looking at each other. The man is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt. The woman has blonde hair and is wearing a dark top. They appear to be in an indoor setting with a window in the background.

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Television Wonderland

Gift options for your viewing pleasure

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Wouldn't it be nice to wake up to a brand new television Christmas morning? Whether you are looking for a new TV or simply want to add to your home theatre, there are plenty of options for you or the videophile on your shopping list.

Panasonic Viera **TCL42U5 — \$499**

Not everyone needs all the bells and whistles of some of the more expensive televisions on the market. Sometimes you just want to watch TV. This 42-inch 1080p LCD TV gives a

great picture for a fraction of the price of most other sets. You still get a variety of inputs (including three HDMI) plus you will benefit from Eco mode, which



will save you money on your energy bills.

LG Cinema **3D LM9600 — \$2,299**

If your heart is set on a 3-D TV, look no further than this LED TV from LG. It has the ability to convert any 2-D content into breathtaking 3-D on the fly. Everything can be controlled through simple gestures using the Magic Remote, or simply tell your TV what you want it to do through voice control.

Samsung Blu-ray Player BD-E6500 — \$219, left, Panasonic Viera TCL42U5 — \$499, top left, Logitech Harmony 650 Remote — \$79.99, top right.

You will find tons of inputs on the back, plus it's Wi-Fi enabled.

Sharp 90-inch **LED TV — \$9,999.99**

Good luck bringing this one down the chimney Santa! Sharp's 90-inch LED TV is the largest in Canada. Experience movies the way they were meant to be seen — on the big screen. The larger screen allows for bigger speakers, giving you a theatre-like experience right in your home.

Gamers will enjoy the Vyper Drive feature that reduces lag times while playing games. You can also connect wirelessly to the web or enjoy apps such as Netflix. This beautiful television comes with a hefty price tag, so don't even think about asking for it if there is even the slightest chance you are on the naughty list.

Samsung Blu-ray Player BD-E6500 — \$219

Not only can this Blu-ray device play your favourite high-definition movies in 2-D and 3-D, it can turn any TV into a smart TV with built-in apps such as Netflix, YouTube and Facebook. If you already own a Samsung smartphone you can use it to control the action. The built-in USB port also allows playback of videos, photos and music from your USB devices.

Apple TV — \$109

Access all of your iTunes content directly on your television. This tiny media player ensures all of your movies, TV shows, and music are readily available, plus get access to Netflix, YouTube and Vimeo without logging onto your computer. One of my favourite features has to be AirPlay, which allows you to stream content from your iPad, MacBook, or iMac right to your television with a simple click. Great for presentations or simply playing games and apps on the big screen.

Logitech Harmony 650 Remote — \$79.99

At one time you had to pay a fortune to get an amazing universal remote. The Harmony 650 proves that's no longer the case. Complete with colour display, this advanced remote can control up to five devices at a fraction of the price of other high-end remotes. While it does require an Internet-connected PC or Mac to set up, once it's up and running it simplifies even the most complex home theatre setup.



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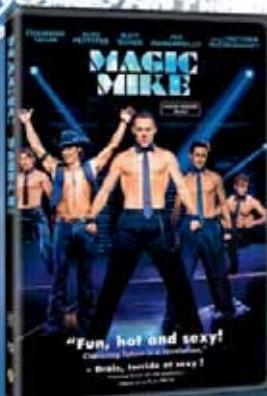
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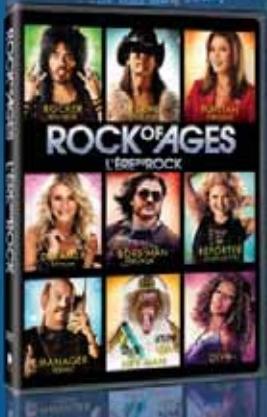
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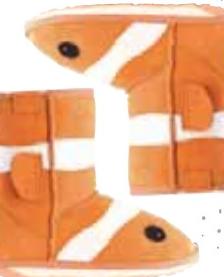
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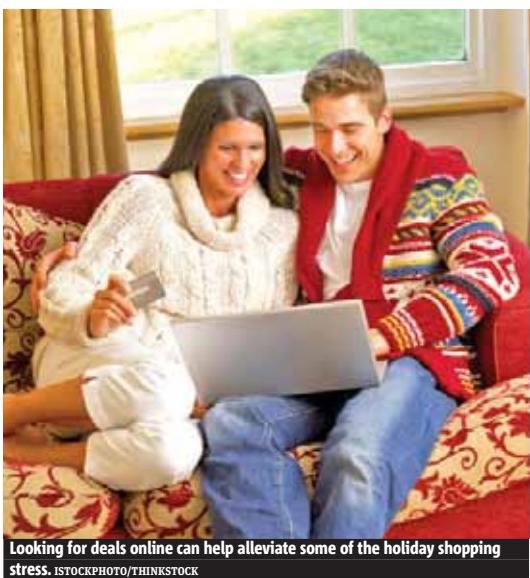
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EDEN SPODEK
YummyMummyClub.ca

December is supposed to be the time of holiday cheer.

Yet, so often we get stressed out when it comes to holiday shopping. Stores are crowded, kids are nagging for that "must-have" new toy or electronic gadget, not to mention teachers' gifts, and something for the BFF who has everything but insists on upholding

the gift exchange you have been doing since you shared a university dorm. Then there's finding that special something for the love of your life. Here are some tips to help make life easier, not just this month, but all year round.

Make a list in advance

When you make a list in advance and stick to it, you will reduce the risk of impulse buying and cut down on browsing time.

Buy teachers' gifts as a class

Get together with other parents and pool your money together so you can buy a group gift. Gift certificates from a local bookstore or mall allow your child's teach-



Shop online

Browse, research, compare shop, and find unique gifts all from the comfort of your own keyboard. It's easy to look for the best deals. With the strong Canadian dollar, consider cross-border shopping. Look for retailers who offer deals on shipping and free gift wrapping, too.

er to choose something they will enjoy instead of toss out.

Donate to a favourite charity in someone's honour

Pretty much every charity accepts donations online — it's quick and easy, and with a minimum donation you will get a tax receipt, too. It may not be as much fun as unwrapping presents but it feels wonderful to do something for others less fortunate while cutting down on unnecessary gifts.

Watch for online giveaways
There are lots of great giveaways on blogs, Twitter and community sites, including YummyMummyClub. The chances of winning are surprisingly pretty good.

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Beauty bounty

JANINE
FALCON
For Metro

From beauty empowerment to fragranced skin, from shimmering nails to luscious hair, these gift ideas have her (and you) covered.

More than a makeup book, **Bobbi Brown Pretty Powerful** (Chronicle Books, 2012) is a confidence-builder from a pro who empowers with must-try tips and tricks. \$34.95 hardcover, chapters.indigo.ca.

Give her nail polish collection a brand new sheen with **YSL La Laque Couture Top Coat in Première Neige**, an iridescent top coat that sparkles over any colour. \$27, Holt Renfrew.

Any scent from the Byredo Parfums collection is a unique

and special gift for fragrance lovers; **Byredo Black Saffron**, an Oriental Spicy eau de parfum is the newest. \$235, Holt Renfrew.

Luscious **LoveFresh Lemon Verbena Body Butter** pampers skin with aloe, chamomile and calendula extracts, and is made sans parabens or petrolatum. \$24, lovefresh.com.

Glamorous yet understated like its creator Aerin Lauder, the **Aerin Holiday Style Palette** offers foolproof shadows and subtle highlight powder. \$78, esteelauder.ca.

Feminine and fragrant, **Valentino Valentino Body Scrub** is a creamy exfoliant in a lovely frosted jar she'll keep for years. \$78, thebay.com.



Above: Byredo Black Saffron.
Below:
Consonant
HydrExtreme
Serum.



Above: Valentino Valentino Body Scrub.
Below: Aerin Holiday Style Palette.



Above: LoveFresh Lemon Verbena Body Butter.
Below: Shu Uemura Cleansing Oil Shampoo.



Above: YSL La Laque Couture Top Coat in Première Neige. Below:
MAC's Sinfully Chic Face Kit.

Grooming gifts for him

JANINE
FALCON
For Metro

From wake-up to spruce-up, these manly gift ideas will help him put his best self forward before his first coffee of the day.

Perk up his morning routine with the ultra-fresh **L'Occitane Verdon Adventure** set, which includes shower gel, soap, deodorant and eau de toilette. \$82, loccitane.ca.

He'll appreciate the weightless **Biotherm Homme Force Supreme** anti-aging formulas that promise smoother, firmer, more comfortable skin. Lotion, \$45 and Serum, \$70; biotherm.ca.

If he's into natural stuff, he'll dig non-oily **Weleda After Shave Balm**, which cools and soothes with organic jojoba seed oil, aloe and myrrh. \$26.99, well.ca.

Set him up for next Movember with the waterproof **Philips Style-shaver**, which trims, styles and shaves with easy precision. \$99.99, personaledge.com.

He doesn't have to be a sexy vampire (or an actor who plays

one) to wear **Calvin Klein Encounter**, a warm, woody scent. \$67, thebay.com.

Ideal for the man who likes simple yet sophisticated skincare, **Shiseido's Men's Essentials Gift Set** includes a handsome toiletry case. \$70, thebay.com.

Help him love his hair more with **Kerastase Anti-Oiliness Daily Treatment Shampoo** and **Leave-In Treatment**. \$36 each, kerastase.com.

For the multi-tasking man, the **Jack Black Core Collection** includes cleanser+toner, shave-oil cream+skin conditioner, and moisturizer+SPF. \$52, ebeauty.ca.

Stock his gym bag with zesty essentials, such as **Crabtree & Evelyn's West Indian Lime Travel Set**. \$26, Crabtree & Evelyn boutiques.

Left: Weleda After Shave Balm. Right: Crabtree & Evelyn's West Indian Lime Travel Set.



Left: Calvin Klein Encounter. Above: Kerastase Anti-Oiliness Daily Treatment Shampoo.



Above: Jack Black Core Collection. Bottom row, from left to right: L'Occitane Verdon Adventure set, Philips Styleshaver, Biotherm Homme Force Supreme.



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Teen dream beauty and body care

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

From savvy style advice to smart skincare to totally adorbs makeup, great gift ideas for the teens in your life.

An energizing citrus kick in the morning shower via a **LUSH Cool Christmas** duo is just the thing for sleepyhead teens. \$16.95, [lush.ca](#)

Whether your teen is obsessed with fashion or just developing his or her own style,



No girl can resist mini beauty treats; the **Soap & Glory**

Put the kybosh on clogged teenage pores with a **Clarisonic Mia** for deep-cleaning sessions every other day. \$139, [sephora.ca](#).

From the fashion queen of whimsy, this **Anna Sui**

Learn to Speak Fashion: A Guide to Creating, Showcasing and Promoting Your Style

(Owl Kids, 2012) offers smart insider insight, advice and encouragement you'll love too. \$16.95 paperback, chapters.indigo.ca.

Small Wonders Gift Set totes fits the mini bill (and your wallet). \$20, Shoppers Drug Mart.

If you love makeup, you'll want to snag a **Stila Snow Angel Color Palette** — 18 shadows, 12 blushes and a mascara (not shown) — for yourself, too. \$51, [sephora.ca](#).

Get your teen on a good-skin regimen with a **Dermatologica Clean Start Starter Kit**, which handles pesky zits, too. \$45.50, [cleanstart.dermatologica.com.ca](#).

From the fashion queen of whimsy, this **Anna Sui**

includes blush, shadow, lip gloss and a sweet lacy pouch. \$50, [Sears.ca](#) and [Murale.ca](#).

Holiday Collection includes blush, shadow, lip gloss and a sweet lacy pouch. \$50, [Sears.ca](#) and [Murale.ca](#).

The Body Shop For Men Maca Root Scrub & Shave Set sets your young fellow up with face wash, moisturizer — and eye cream Dad can swipe. \$35, [thebodyshop.ca](#).

Nourishing essentials for feet and hands, such as the **Burt's Bees Best of Burt's Bees Set**, are easy stocking stuffers. \$24.99, [burtsbees.ca](#).

From bottom left to bottom right: **Burt's Bees Best of Burt's Bees Set**, **The Body Shop For Men Maca Root Scrub & Shave Set**, **Clarisonic Mia**, **LUSH Cool Christmas**, **Dermatologica Clean Start Starter Kit**.



Anna Sui Holiday Collection

Above: Anna Sui

Holiday Collection.



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Recipe. All-In-One Spiced Chocolate Loaf

This Green & Black's Organic All-In-One Spiced Chocolate Loaf recipe will be a sure hit during the holidays.

Ingredients:

- 50 g dark (70 per cent cocoa solids) chocolate
- 100 g plain flour
- 125 g icing sugar
- 1 tsp ground mixed spice
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 175 g unsalted butter at room temperature, plus extra for greasing
- 4 medium free-range eggs
- 100 g dark chocolate with ginger

Instructions:

- 1 Preheat the oven to 180 C/350 F/gas mark 4, and

butter a 22-centimetre loaf pan.

2 Melt the dark chocolate using double boiler method (placing a microwave or heatproof bowl over a pan of gently simmering water) ensuring the bowl doesn't touch the water. Set aside to cool.

3 Blend the flour, sugar, spices and baking powder. This can be achieved using a food processor or a hand-held electric mixer.

4 Add the butter, cooled melted chocolate and the eggs and blend until evenly combined. Pour the mixture into the loaf pan and bake for about 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean. Carefully

remove the loaf from the pan and cool on a wire rack.

5 Meanwhile, melt the ginger chocolate bar using

the double boiler method and drizzle over the cooled cake. Makes one loaf.

Tip: You can also drizzle

the loaf with other Green & Black's Organic chocolate. Dark, milk or white chocolate would also complement

this cake's flavours.

RECIPE COMPLIMENTS OF GREEN & BLACK'S ORGANIC HOLIDAY 2012



Dark, milk or white chocolate would also complement this cake's flavours. CONTRIBUTED

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4 SPORTS

56

SPORTS

metronews.ca
WEEKEND, December 7-9, 2012

Sidney Crosby listens as NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr speaks to reporters on Thursday in New York. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fehr-ing the worst: NHL talks stall again

Day 82. No negotiations planned after NHLPA's proposal rejected by league

The NHL labour talks have hit another roadblock — and this one appears to be massive.

After two optimistic days that suggested a deal could be imminent, negotiations between the league and the NHL Players' Association broke off dramatically Thursday.

The NHLPA presented a new offer on Thursday afternoon, a proposal that union head Donald Fehr called "a clear outline" to end the dispute.

Fehr said he believed the

Quoted

"It looks like this is not going to be resolved in the immediate future."

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr

two sides are "clearly very close if not on top of one another in connection with most of the major issues."

The league flatly rejected the offer, saying the two sides aren't close despite what Fehr says.

"I don't know why he did that," an angry Gary Bettman told a news conference.

The NHL commissioner said any new offers the league made this week are now off the table.

"The take or give or bottom

line on all this is: It appears that the union is suggesting because we made substantial movements in certain areas that we're close to a deal," said Bettman. "But those moves were contingent on the union specifically agreeing on other things, which, while the union may have moved towards, didn't agree to."

During talks this week, the league said it was willing to increase the amount of deferred transition money paid to the

players to \$300 million US — which sat directly between what had most recently been tabled by the NHL (\$211 million) and NHLPA (\$393 million).

Another issue that surfaced was the league's desire to see a 10-year term on the collective bargaining agreement. The union's offer Thursday was for eight years with an option for opting out after Year 6.

"I'm disappointed beyond belief that we are where we are tonight," said Bettman.

Fehr's comments took an equally negative tone.

"What can we tell the hockey fans of Canada? You can tell them that it looks like this is not going to be resolved in the immediate future," Fehr said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Broncos trample Raiders for eighth straight victory

After overwhelming another overmatched division rival, Peyton Manning and the streaking Denver Broncos can turn their attention to much more meaningful opponents.

Manning threw for 310 yards and had his 30th touchdown pass of the season on the game's opening drive to help the Broncos roll to their eighth straight victory, 26-13 over the Oakland Raiders on Thursday night.

Knowshon Moreno ran for 119 yards and a score on a career-high 32 carries, and Matt Prater kicked four field goals to help the Broncos (10-3) move a half-game ahead of New England and Baltimore for the second-best record in the AFC. Carson Palmer threw one interception that thwarted a possible scoring chance for the Raiders and lost a fumble that set up a touchdown for the Broncos as Oakland lost its sixth straight game.

Denver visits Baltimore next week in a game that will help decide who gets a first-round playoff bye.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Star free agents left waiting after winter meetings

As teams headed home from the baseball winter meetings on Thursday in Nashville, the biggest free agents were still on the market.

The availability of slugger Josh Hamilton and pitcher Zack Greinke held up decisions on other signings and possible trades involving Rangers star Michael Young and the Mets' Cy Young Award winner R.A. Dickey.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Horoscopes**Aries****March 21 - April 20**

You can be successful on a material level but you will also have to take on some heavy responsibilities. Are you prepared to do that? It's important that you decide one way or the other before making your next move.

Taurus**April 21 - May 20**

You may doubt that you are up to the task that has been set for you, but you must not let those doubts take hold. Think of life as a wonderful adventure. It's how you play the game.

Gemini**May 22 - June 21**

Group activities are under the spotlight today and you may meet someone who has a profound effect on the way you look at the world. If you feel it is your destiny to do something special, you will soon get the chance.

Cancer**June 22 - July 21**

If you want to make a name for yourself, now is the time to begin. Set new goals and start long-term projects. Just make sure you know what the consequences will be. This isn't for fun, this is serious.

Leo**July 24 - Aug. 23**

Unexpected delays may frustrate you today, and maybe into the weekend, but there is nothing you can do about them. So, lighten up. The scenery may pass slowly but that gives you more time to enjoy it.

Virgo**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**

Your money situation may be going through an up and down phase, but the planets indicate that real wealth is within your grasp. You'll change the way you think about what you own and earn over the next 24 hours.

Libra**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**

Someone you usually get along with so well is hard to get through to today. It's as if there is an invisible barrier between you. Don't worry, it's nothing serious. They just need to be left alone with their thoughts for a while.

Scorpio**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**

Don't worry if a plan or project you have been working on for months, maybe even years, is still not complete. It's a long-term project, after all. Having said that, see how far you can move it forward today.

Sagittarius**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**

At some point today, you will realize that what seems like harmless enjoyment to you may not be so harmless to other people. It's important to remember that you don't live in a vacuum. Actions always have consequences.

Capricorn**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**

Something will happen over the next two or three days that reminds you of your responsibilities. Most important of all is your duty to loved ones. How can you help ease a relative's pain?

Aquarius**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**

Others may wonder why you are so difficult to get through to but even an Aquarius needs to spend some time alone. Come the weekend you will be your old self again, open and happy and eager to share.

Pisces**Feb. 20 - March 20**

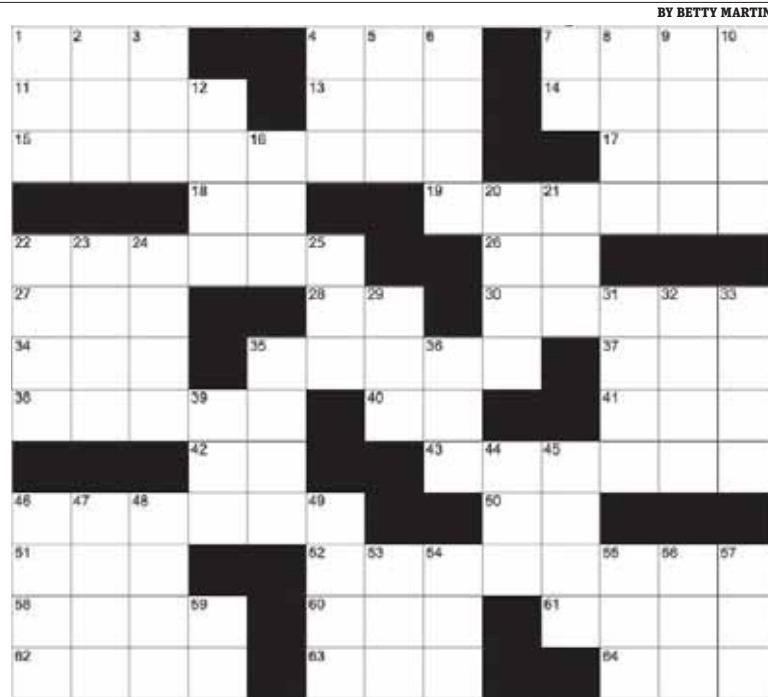
The limitations and restrictions of the past few days will start to lift and by Monday, at the latest, you will be free to pursue your own interests. Hopefully, those limitations will have taught you the importance of timing. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword**Across**

- carte (2 wds)
- Family Ties actor: Michael J. —
- A softened oath
- Painted metalware
- Mine yield
- Withered
- Type of stew
- "The Crying Game" actor Stephen —
- Commercial message
- Seem
- Where ends meet
- Common Latin abbr.
- Latin 101 verb
- Contented sigh
- Dims
- Funnyman Conway
- Rise and —
- Fury
- Cubic metre
- Courtroom figure (abbr.)
- For shame!
- Apiece (abbr.)
- Extremely bright
- Designer McCartney
- Musical note
- Ramsey
- Sloppy
- Crew needs
- The Royal Canadian — Farce
- Boxcar rider
- Factual
- On the authority of
- Coal container

Down

- Banking convenience
- Role for Ed Asner
- My Children
- Haze
- Openings (anat.)
- Warrior princess of TV



- Plural suffix
- "An Officer and a Gentleman" actor
- Locale
- Letter starter
- Zest
- Chemical suffix
- Tube
- Small green veggie
- Broadway musical
- Overlook

- Italian capital
- Bleachers cheer
- Concealed
- Boost
- Lake near Niagara Falls
- Flower starter
- Fasten tightly
- Henpeck
- Family mem.
- Brat
- Child's card game: Go —

- Photographed
- Shed one of these
- Beige shade
- On the double
- Fib
- Like some verbs (abbr.)
- Peg
- Sash
- Put on
- Opposite of NW

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	9	2	1	5	8	4	3
1	8	5	9	4	3	2	6	7
4	2	3	7	0	8	5	1	9
9	3	2	4	7	1	6	5	8
5	4	6	8	3	9	7	2	1
7	1	8	6	5	2	9	3	4
2	5	1	3	8	7	4	9	6
3	6	7	5	0	4	1	8	2
8	9	4	1	2	6	3	7	5

8	4		5		2	6
1	9					
		3				9
5	2	1				
7		6	5		2	
				2	8	7
1					4	
					6	3
2	5		8	4		1

Weather

TODAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MAX: -8°
MIN: -12°MAX: -12°
MIN: -16°MAX: 0°
MIN: -1°ANDREW SCHULTZ
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WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM

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"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy". (Psalm 107:12) It is a fact that not all persons that started the year 2012 are still alive today. However, God has shown you his goodness and mercy and has kept you alive, hale and hearty. He has not only saved you from the hands of the enemies, He has also kept you away from dreaded diseases, accidents and spiritual attacks. Take stock of what God has done for you and take time out to appreciate Him for His goodness.

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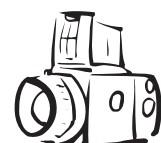


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